WOMBS ウームズ 白井弓子

4

WOMBS vol.4
Yumiko Shirai
presents

IKKICOMIX

WOMBS

ウームズ 4

WOMBS vol.4

Yumiko Shirai presents

白井弓子

CAST OF CHARACTERS

| TRANSFER CORPS |

MANA OGA

SGT. ARMEA

KEI

SHEDD

CASS

MARIA

NURSE

COLONEL SAURA

CHIEF MIMI

CORPORAL MAUN

DOCTORS

NICHOLS

HERMAN

DIAMOND

TRANSFER CORPS' DIRECTOR

RED-HAIR

これまでの物語

歪な月が空に浮かぶ碧王星。第一次移民（ファースト）と第二次移民（セカンド）との間で戦争が続いていた。
ファーストの他の国々は、セカンドに屈してゆき、残るはハスト一国となった。
ハスト出身のマナ・オーガは、徴兵され特別転送隊に配属される。
特別転送隊、それは女だけの特殊部隊。現地生物ニーバスの体組織を自らの子宮に移植することで、
ニーバスと同じ空間転送の能力を身につけた女性兵士だけの部隊である。
アルメア軍曹の元で厳しい訓練を受け、転送器官を移植し転送兵となったマナは、初の実戦を経験。
座標空間内でニーバスと対峙し、謎の存在「赤毛」にも出会う。
この頃からマナの身には異変が顕れ始めていた。そして見出される「開拓者」の才能。
「開拓」とは、新しい転送ポイントを創り出す能力。現在の転送隊に開拓者はいなく、
過去に遡ってもただ一人しか現れなかった稀有な存在である。
一進一退を繰り返す戦況、進まない外交交渉。
この状況は、物量に劣るファーストにとって、ゆるやかに滅びゆくようなものでしかない。
セカンドの新首都完成を目前に控え、ついに軍上層部は新首都攻撃作戦を開始する。
作戦の鍵となるのは、開拓者マナ・オーガ。敵影はマナの故郷にまで迫り、
胎内の転送器官には不穏な成長を遂げつつある。ファーストとセカンド。
転送隊と研究所、軍上層部…それぞれの立場と思惑が交錯するその中心にマナはいる。

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CHAPTER 24: WAITING [17 WEEKS]

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.....

MISTER, GIMME ANOTHER!

ANOTHER GLASS OF ORANGE JUICE, PLEASE!

F''

.....

YOUR TAB'S GROWING PRETTY BIG, KID.

MY MOM WILL DEF-INITELY COME!

I AIN'T GIVING YOU ANYMORE JUICE UNTIL YOUR MOM COMES TO PAY THE TAB.

SHE PROMISED THAT IF I STAYED HERE LIKE A GOOD BOY,

SHE'D DEFIN-ITELY COME TO PICK ME UP IN TIME!

4

SHE PROMISED...

ORANGE JUICE...

.....

5

THERE'S NOBODY ACTUALLY HERE.

THEY'RE ALL APPARITIONS ASIDE FROM ME...

カラン

I'M LONELY...

KASHUNK!

6

WHO'RE YOU!?

I COULDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU BECAUSE YOUR FORM CHANGED!

!

YOU'RE MANA'S NAVI!?

DON'T COME NEAR ME!

I...

I'M LARO...

I KNOW ABOUT YOU.

MANA'S NAVI.

MANA TOLD ME NOT TO GET INVOLVED WITH YOU.

SHE TOLD ME TO STAY AWAY FROM RED-HAIR!

YOU'RE "RED-HAIR."

.....

IF MANA TOLD YOU THAT,

THEN WHY DID YOU COME HERE?

.....

I DON'T KNOW.

THIS PLACE.

I JUST... SAW IT.

9

I SHOULD GET BACK OR MANA WILL GET ANGRY AT ME.

AND THE NEXT THING I KNEW, I WAS HERE.

I SAW IT,

FOR JUST A SECOND,

W-

WAIT!

KEEP IT A SECRET FROM MANA!

AND COME HERE TO PLAY ANOTHER TIME!

WAIT!

I'M... REALLY LONELY...

10

I GUESS IT'D BE OKAY TO COME JUST ONCE IN A WHILE.

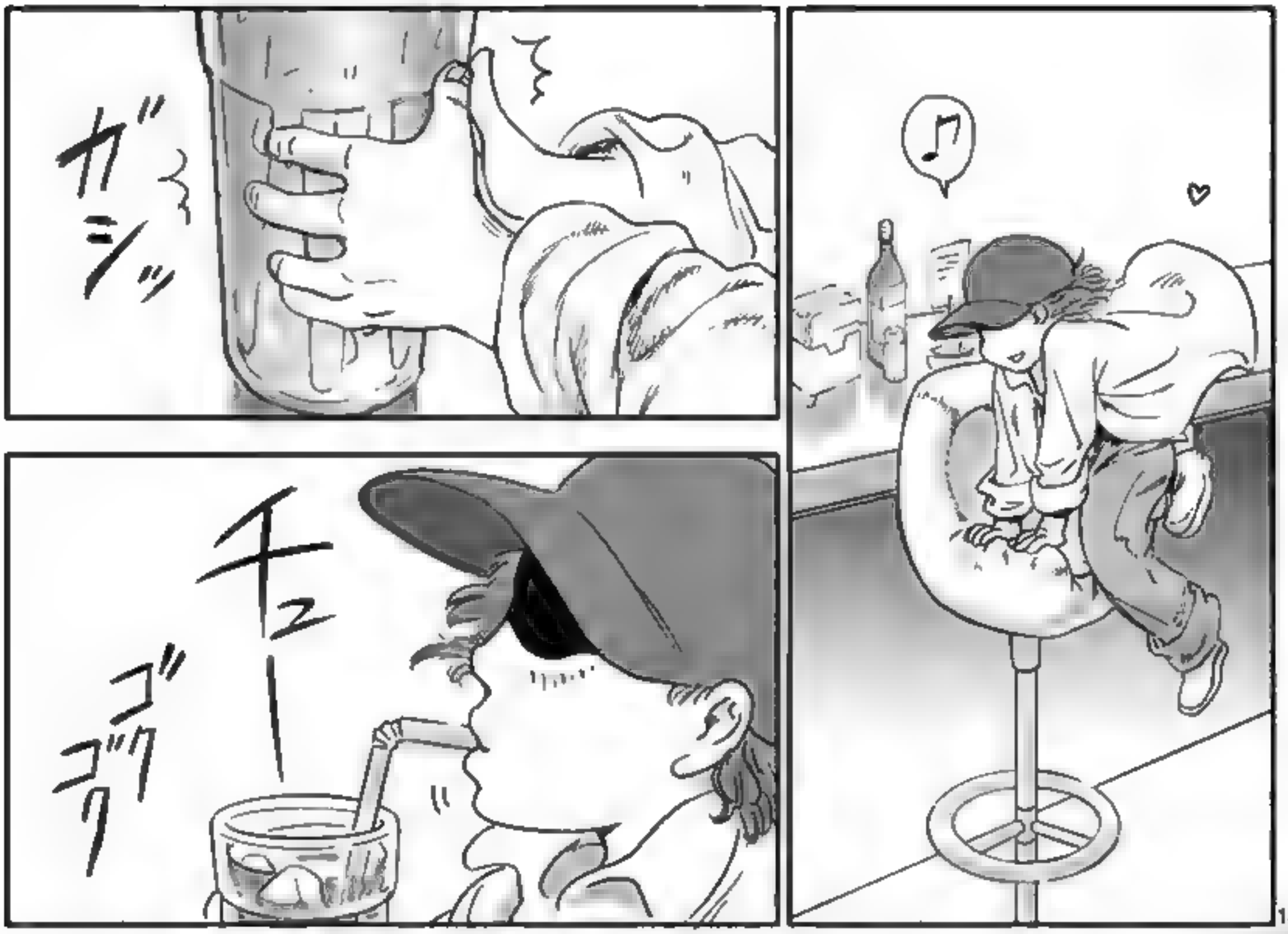
ALRIGHT.

.....

HERE.
TAKE IT.

12

SMILE



LET'S MEET AGAIN...!

MANA!

NAVI? WHERE ARE YOU?

DID YOU GET SHORTER?

.....

.....

WHERE WERE YOU!?

15

LET'S GO RECLAIM MORE POINTS!

LET'S GO!

I DID NOT!

?

21

16

I CAN SEE SO CLEARLY.

I CAN SEE, MANA.

WE'RE BACK AT THE BASE, DOCTOR.

02

AWFULLY QUIET ON THE RETURN TRIP, DON'T YOU THINK?

DR. NICHOLS?

O-OH RIGHT. THANK YOU.

Please relax. We're all in proper formation so there's nothing to worry about.

ARE YOU SURE IT'LL BE FINE!? MAKE SURE TO TRANSPORT ME IN ONE PIECE!

SHE SEEMED REALLY SCARED DURING THE INITIAL TRIP TO THE RESEARCH CENTER.

SO MAKE SURE TO REPORT IN NO MATTER HOW BUSY YOU ARE WITH YOUR DUTIES!

IS THAT CLEAR!?

I'LL BE DOUBLING THE MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS FROM TOMORROW.

YES, DOCTOR.

WH...

?

Who knows?

What was that about?

.....

IT MUST BE DUE TO THE LINK UP WITH THE GROWING OPTIC NERVE.

THERE'S A... VERTEBRAL COLUMN GROWING HERE.

I KNOW THAT!

THE DEVELOP-MENT OF BOTH THE NIEBASS ORGAN AND ITS BEARER IS MANAGED BY THE SAME DNA, AFTER ALL.

OH, THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT THAT.

THEN IT'LL ALSO SOON GROW ITS OWN BRAIN.

WHAT I'M GETTING AT IS THAT IF THIS THING IS GROWING A SPINE,

.....

THEN IT'S A FETUS!

AND IF IT HAS ITS OWN BRAIN,

NO, THAT'S A MATTER OF FACT!

WELL, THAT'S A MATTER OF OPINION.

THE SAME AS BEFORE.

WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO TELL THEM NOW!?

ALL THIS TIME, I'VE ASSURED EMPHATICALLY TO ALL THE RECRUITS THAT THE IMPLANTS WERE NOT FETUSES.

EVEN IF YOU LET IT FULLY GROW, IT'LL NEVER DEVELOP ITS OWN LIMBS OR DIGESTIVE AND RESPIRATORY SYSTEMS.

IT'S NOT SOMETHING THAT COULD EVER GROW TO SURVIVE OUTSIDE THE WOMB.

BY THAT CRITERIA, IT'S MOST DEFINITELY NOT A FETUS.

.....

DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE FORGOTTEN ABOUT THE "COMPLEX SENSORY ORGAN,"

WHICH FORCED US TO EVENTUALLY GIVE UP ON FURTHER CULTIVATION OF THE BRAIN...

BUT THE EYES AREN'T THE ONLY THINGS THAT'LL DEVELOP AND ATTACH TO THE BRAIN THOUGH.

SO THAT'S WHY YOU CAME IN PERSON ALL THE WAY HERE.

I THOUGHT IT STRANGE THAT YOU WOULD TAKE ETHICAL ISSUES ONLY NOW, AFTER EVERYTHING ELSE...

DON'T DEFLECT THE ISSUE.

YOU MEAN THE "SAWS!"

OH!

IS THAT SO?

THOSE SAWS ARE A HAZARD.

IF EVERYONE HAD WOMBS OF IRON LIKE SGT. ARMEA, I DON'T THINK IT'D POSE MUCH A PROB-

THEY'LL INJURE THE WOMB.

THAT'S ENOUGH!

I SAW THE SERGEANT'S WOMB,

WITH MY OWN EYES LAST YEAR!

AND RUNNING WITH VEINS.

IT WAS SOFT, TENDER,

IT WAS A WOMB LIKE ANY OTHER...

SO IT'S REALLY NOTHING TO GET HUNG UP ABOUT. THAT'S ALL I WISHED TO SAY.

BUT THE "SAWS" ONLY DEVELOP AFTER 38 WEEKS,

I'LL GIVE YOU THE AUTHORITY TO DECIDE WHEN THAT TIME PERIOD COMES.

HOW ABOUT THIS?

MY APOLOGIES.

I SPOKE TOO LIGHTLY.

HOWEVER,

YOU'LL HAVE FULL AUTHORITY TO TERMINATE THE PATIENT'S TERM.

IF YOU OBSERVE DEVELOPMENTS THAT SHOW GOOD RISK OF INJURING THE WOMB,

THIS IS NOT LYING.

THIS IS SIMPLY MAINTAINING CLASSIFIED INFO.

LIE?

AS THE TRUTH MUST BE KEPT SECRET, YOU WOULD HAVE TO CHANGE THE REASON FOR THE TERMINATION OPERATION.

SO YOU'RE TELLING ME TO JUST LIE TO THE GIRLS!?

JUST BECAUSE YOU FELT THEY HAD THE RIGHT TO KNOW.

YOU BECOME COURT-MARTIALED, FOR LOWERING MORALE AND CAUSING ADDITIONAL STRESS AND WORRY TO THE GIRLS,

I REALLY WOULD HATE TO SEE,

SHUT

SHUT YOUR EYES IF YOU DON'T WANT TO SEE IT, THEN.

.....

IF YOU THINK YOU CAN JUST RETURN TO BEING A SIMPLE OBSTETRICIAN,

YOU'RE DELUDED.

MY JOB IS SIMPLY TO ENSURE THAT THE GIRLS CAN FIGHT WITHOUT ANY PHYSICAL DISABILITIES.

DON'T BE NAIVE!

IF YOU'RE GOING TO HANDICAP ME WITH ALL THESE REGULATIONS, I'LL-

AND IF WE LOSE THE WAR,

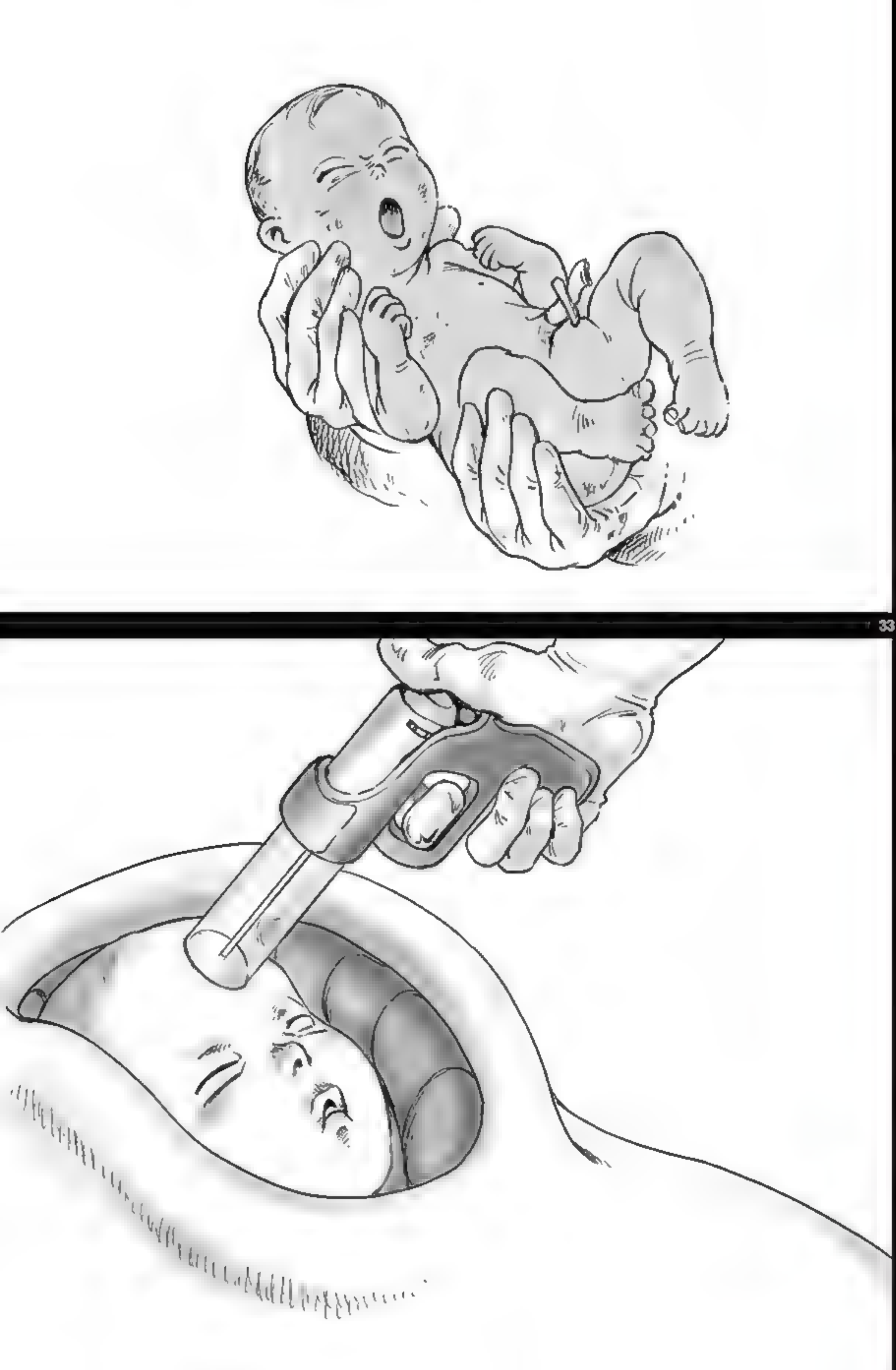
YOU'LL BECOME AN OBSTETRI-CIAN FOR THE SECONDS.

IF WE DON'T RAISE THE TRANSFER CORPS' POWER TO THEIR UTMOST LIMITS,

WE **WILL** LOSE THIS WAR.

ABOUT WHAT THE OBSTETRICIANS OF THE DEFEATED NATIONS HAVE BEEN FORCED TO DO, ARE YOU...?

SURELY, YOU'RE NOT SO NAIVE AS TO BE IGNORANT,



PSHH!
PSHH!
THE COUNTLESS INFANTS INJECTED WITH NANOMACHINES IMMEDIATELY UPON BIRTH.

WHICH IN REALITY AMOUNT TO NOTHING MORE THAN COMPLETE STERILIZATION OF "FIRSTS."

UNDER THEIR SO-CALLED GOVERNMENT-MANDATED BIRTH CONTROL REGULATION METHODS,

OBSTETRICIANS APPLY THE "MORAL" FEDERATION STANDARDS,

RESIGNING WITHOUT FIRST WINNING THE WAR,

IS NOTHING BUT A DREAM.

A DREAM...

Transfer soldiers are provided with SG 02 cream to prevent striae gravidarum. Striae, more commonly known as "stretch marks," can form for obese or pregnant individuals and is difficult to completely eliminate as it is a type of skin scarring.

CHAPTER 25 ARMISTICE DECLARATION [17 WEEKS]

A neutral station of the Pan Human Association

2

I WILL REPEAT

Repeat the state-ment, Sue I.L. 16.

SAY THAT AGAIN.

AN ARMISTICE WILL BE DECLARED.

IN 71 HOURS AND 59 MINUTES OF HEKIOU TIME FROM NOW,

CLICK CLICK

ACTING REPRESENTATIVE OF THE NEW HEKIOU UNION, SUE I.L. 16

This is a decision from the Pan-Human Associa-tion.

MY NATION NEVER AGREED TO SUCH A THING!

Your consent is not necessary.

HAST AMBASSADOR, WILLIAM ALBA

Their legal status is contingent upon the completion of the submitted city construction plan,

And the commencement of formal colonization by the main body of the immigrant group.

Once a request is made from a legal immigrant group, the Associa-tion is obliged to accept

That being said,

MY NATION'S ARMED FORCES WILL DESTROY IT BEFORE THEY DO SO.

THEIR CITY WILL NOT BE COM-PLETED.

AMBASSA-DOR ALBA.

Our role is limited to seeing to it that the war is waged within the boundaries of international law.

The Pan-Human Association will not intervene on that specific matter.

AS A SEMI-LOCAL LIFE FORM.

IT IS TIME FOR YOU TO REALISTICALLY ASSESS YOUR CURRENT STANDING,

WE OBJECT TO THAT DEROGRATORY CATEGORIZA-TION!

THE CONSENT OF ILLEGAL MIGRANTS IS NOT REQUIRED.

WHILE YOU MAY BE SELF-CONSCIOUS AND INTELLIGENT, GROUPS WHO DO NOT COMPLY WITH THE PAN-HUMAN ASSOCIATION'S RULES ARE DESIGNATED AS SEMI-LOCAL LIFE FORMS,

WHO WILL NOT RECEIVE THE SAME RIGHTS AND PROTECTION OFFERED FOR LOCAL LIFE FORMS.

SUCH A DEVELOPMENT WOULD BE QUITE UNFAVOURABLE,

TO SEMI-LOCAL LIFE FORMS.

ONCE THE WAR CONCLUDES, WE, AS LEGAL MIGRANTS, WILL HAVE THE FULL AUTHORITY TO UNILATERALLY HANDLE ALL POST-WAR MEASURES AND SETTLEMENTS.

THIS IS OUR FINAL WARNING TO YOU.

THE WISEST CHOICE WOULD BE FOR HAST TO SURRENDER BEFORE THAT WHEN THE PAN-HUMAN ASSOCIATION STILL HAS THE RIGHT TO INTERVENE.

OUR GOVERN-MENT WILL DECLARE AN ARMISTICE.

IN 71 HOURS AND 50 MINUTES,

THEY CAN BE FULLY TRUSTED TO KEEP THEIR PROMISES ABOUT TIME.

THAT WHILE THE SECONDS MAY FIND LEGAL LOOP-HOLES TO EXPLOIT,

WE SHOULD KNOW WELL FROM OUR PAST BATTLE EXPERIENCE,

71 HOURS AND 30 MINUTES FROM NOW...

.....

THEIR NEW CAPITAL MUST BE DESTROYED,

BUT COLONEL WILLIAMS,

BY THAT TIME OR ELSE...

THE NECKLACE IS STILL NOT COMPLETE!

IF WE DEVIATE NOW FROM OUR PLANS, THE ENEMY WILL SURELY RECOUP THEIR LOSSES IN NO TIME WITH THEIR SUPERIOR RESOURCES!

ONLY AN INSUFFICIENT AREA HAS YET BEEN COVERED.

8

CAN YOU NOT HASTEN THE RECLAMATION PACE?

WE'RE ALREADY AT OUR UTMOST CAPABILITIES, COLONEL!

LT. COLONEL SAURA,

Is that really so?

!

I'M AFRAID WE'LL HAVE TO FORM A PLAN MAKING THE BEST USE OF THE ALREADY RECLAIMED TRANSFER POINTS.

WITH ONLY ONE COLONIST... WE CAN'T EXACTLY RAISE OUR PACE.

9

Sgt. Armea knows the details.

THAT'S ABSURD! WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS!?

The Transfer corps currently requires only 8 hours of work a day from its combat engineers.

I suggest we hear directly from her

XXXXX!

BZZT!

!?

THE FULL RESPON-SIBILITY LIES WITH ME, NOT HER!

REARRANGE THE FORMA-TION! ARE YOU CUNTS SUICIDAL OR SOMETHING!?

Giving them enough rest as if they were actually pregnant.

WHAT'RE YOU DRAGGING YOUR FEET FOR!?

DON'T YOUR REALIZE THIS IS A NATIONAL CRISIS!?

face on

BEEP

.....

It is as the director stated. Is there a problem?

DO IT AGAIN NOW!

SGT. ARMEA, EXPLAIN YOURSELF!

Are you all for-getting,

That even if this operation succeeds...

FLASH

じっ!

はっ

ONE MORE TIME!

THIS WAR WILL STILL NOT BE OVER.

WITHOUT OUR ONLY COLONIST, MANA OGA?

TO FIGHT THAT BATTLE AHEAD OF US,

THIS WILL MERELY SIGNAL THE START OF ANOTHER LONG BATTLE.

DO YOU REALLY WISH,

11

WHAT ARE YOU GETTING AT?

REMAINING IN THERE FOR TOO LONG,

WILL CAUSE PHYSICAL AND EVEN MENTAL COLLAPSE. FOR A COLONIST, IT MAY RESULT IN HER LOSING HER RECLAMATION ABILITIES.

IT MAY BE DIFFICULT FOR THOSE WHO'VE NEVER "CARRIED" TO UNDERSTAND,

BUT THE COORDINATE SPACE IS NOT SIMPLY A VIRTUAL SPACE.

TO BE FRANK, I'M QUITE TIRED OF YOUR HEAVY BIAS TOWARDS EMPIRICAL PRIVILEGE.

ALWAYS INSISTING THAT THOSE OF US WHO DO NOT CARRY COULD "NEVER HOPE TO UNDERSTAND..."

IS THAT ALL YOU HAVE TO SAY?

!

12

THE TRANSFER CORPS HAS GROWN TOO COMFORTABLE WITH ITS SPECIAL PRIVILEGES THAT IT FEELS IT NEED NOT EVEN EXPLAIN ITS ACTIONS TO OUTSIDERS ANYMORE.

THAT IS EXACTLY THE KIND OF ATTITUDE WE CANNOT TOLERATE FROM A BRANCH OF THE ARMED FORCES!

.....

GET YOUR COLONIST TO WORK WHETHER DAY OR NIGHT!

IS THAT CLEAR!?

YOU'RE MISTAKEN, COLONEL.

ENOUGH!

UNDER-STOOD, SIR.

PLEASE EXCUSE ME THEN.

BEEP

SO SHE FINALLY COMPLIES.

You should not lower your guard just yet.

WHAT'RE YOU SAYING!?

YES, THAT'S CERTAINLY POSSIBLE.

IT'S ONLY TOO CLEAR THAT THE BATTLE SITUATION WILL BE TO OUR DISFAVOUR IF SHE WERE TO LOSE HER ABILITIES.

IF IT WEREN'T FOR OGA, THIS WHOLE OPERATION WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN EVEN POSSIBLE!

Dr. Herman's electrical potential data of the brain should be checked.

You never know if she might still try to pull a fast one over our heads.

I GUARANTEE THERE WILL BE MORE FORTHCOMING COLONISTS IN THE FUTURE.

OGA IS NOT THE ONLY COLONIST WE WILL EVER HAVE.

.....

IN FACT, FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAKING FUTURE COLONISTS,

YES, ABSO-LUTELY.

ARE YOU SURE?

?!

IT MAY EVEN BE BENEFICIAL TO "BREAK" OUR CURRENT COLONIST...

THAT'S THE SIMPLE TRUTH

CHIEF MIMI.

IT'S ABSURD THAT I HAVE TO ASK YOU OF ALL PEOPLE TO BE THE TIME-KEEPER BUT...

IT'S FINE, I'M FREE.

PAY NO HEED TO ANYONE WHO OBJECTS.

YES.

SO YOU WANT ME TO WAKE HER UP EVERY 3 HOURS,

AND HAVE HER STRETCH AND MOVE AROUND A BIT,

SO SHE'S NOT JUST STUCK IN THE COORDINATE SPACE ALL DAY, RIGHT?

OF COURSE,

I WON'T LET THEM HAVE THEIR WAY IN THIS ROOM.

THANKS, I'M COUNTING ON YOU.

BEEP

YES, I'M IN HERE.
BUT THE GIRLS HERE ARE NOT SO FREE ENOUGH AS TO PARTICIPATE IN YOUR DATA COLLECTION.

THIS IS HERMAN.
YOU'RE IN THERE, AREN'T YOU, CHIEF MIMI?

EVERYONE HERE IS AS BUSY AS CAN BE!

CHAPTER 26 BOUNDARY [17 WEEKS]

2

A

B

CAN YOU SEE ANYTHING, CASS?

YOU'RE SET TO RECEIVE THE LATEST INTEL ON IT RIGHT NOW,

SO STAY RIGHT THERE.

WELL, RIGHT BELOW YOU IS WHERE THE SECONDS' NEW CAPITAL IS CURRENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

JUST THE VIRGIN FOREST...

HERE?

HERE IT COMES!

HAHAHA!

AGH, MY EYES! IT'S TOO BRIGHT!

4

TRY LOOKING DOWN NOW.

KAY...

IT'S DONE THROUGH BURNING.

I CAN... SEE THE CITY LAYOUT... IMPOSED ONTO THE VIRGIN FOREST...

KEEPING IT LOW-TECH IS BETTER.

IT MAKES IT MORE CROSS-COMPAT-IBLE.

OH... THAT SOUNDS SURPRISINGLY PRIMITIVE.

THE "CONTROLLER" USES THE AVAILABLE DATA,

AND THEN BURNS PARTS OF OUR COORDINATE SPACE-IMAGE TO FORM WHAT YOU SEE BELOW.

Did you get the data properly?

WE LOST ONE NEST TO GET YOU THIS DATA...

SO YOU DAMN WELL BETTER MAKE GOOD USE OF IT!

THEN I'M GOING TO BURN THE MAP OF OUR PLANNED ATTACK TO YOU NOW.

GET READY!

.....

ROGER, CORPORAL MALIN.

6

Take a close look.

As you can see, the areas that we can transfer to doesn't even cover a third of the capital's area.

AGHH!

YOU'LL GET USED TO IT.

!

HQ is thus telling us to reclaim around 10 more points,

Within just 70 hours, too!

7

THE "WITHIN TERMS" FOR ME AND THE OTHER SCOUTS THERE WITH YOU MAY OR MAY NOT TERMINATE IN JUST A FEW MORE WEEKS.

SO YOU HAVE TO BE THE ONE TO DO IT!

We don't have a moment to delay.

Cass, you'll have to guide Oga from hereon!

WHA? ME?

.....

So get to it! now!

Y-YES, CORPORAL...

8

MANA!

YOU'RE HERE, AREN'T YOU!?

ゴト

ゴト

THOSE CLOTHES LOOK GOOD ON YOU.

MANA!

I HEARD YOU THE FIRST TIME.

MEANWHILE, HERE I AM, STUCK DRIVING AROUND THIS FARMING TRUCK ON THE GROUND...

THE VIEW FROM THE SKY MUST BE NICE.

Y... YOU THINK SO?

OH RIGHT,

IT'S TILLING SEASO-

.....

IT'S COW MANURE.

IT IS TILLING SEASON, AFTER ALL.

UGH, THIS STINKS...

HAHA...

!

WITH THIS,

I KNOW THAT!

WHAT DO YOU THINK I'M DRIVING THIS CAR AROUND FOR!?

MANA, WE'RE HERE TO RECLAIM POINTS!

FINE, FINE!

I SHOULD BE ABLE TO MAKE FASTER PROGRESS!

NOT FARM!

I'M HERE TO MARK THE TARGETS INTO THE COORDINATES.

I'LL GUIDE YOU FROM ABOVE SO JUST FOLLOW MY LEAD.

GOT IT.

I'LL BE BACK.

UGH, IT REEKS!

IT REEKS OF IRON.

THE MANURE?

NO, NOT THAT.

11

LET'S GO!

I DON'T LIKE IT HERE.

YOU'RE RIGHT.

THERE'S A STRONG METALLIC SCENT...

I'LL CREATE A POINT HERE.

SISTER CASS.

!

UHH, THIS PLACE ISN'T ON THE PLANS, MANA.

IT'S TOO CLOSE TO THE OTHER POINTS.

12

THIS IS AN IMPORTANT PLACE TO "US."

MANA, STOP!

MANA.

STOOP!

BUT...

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING, CASS!? DIDN'T I TELL YOU TO GUIDE HER!?

?!

OGA IS...

16

CLICK

CLICK

NAVI!

I'M SCARED...

WHIMPER

NAVI.

IT'S ALRIGHT.

IT'S ALRIGHT.

≠"

I

"

BECAUSE YOU...

NEVER.

NEVER NEED TO GO OVER TO THAT OTHER SIDE.

20

REALLY?

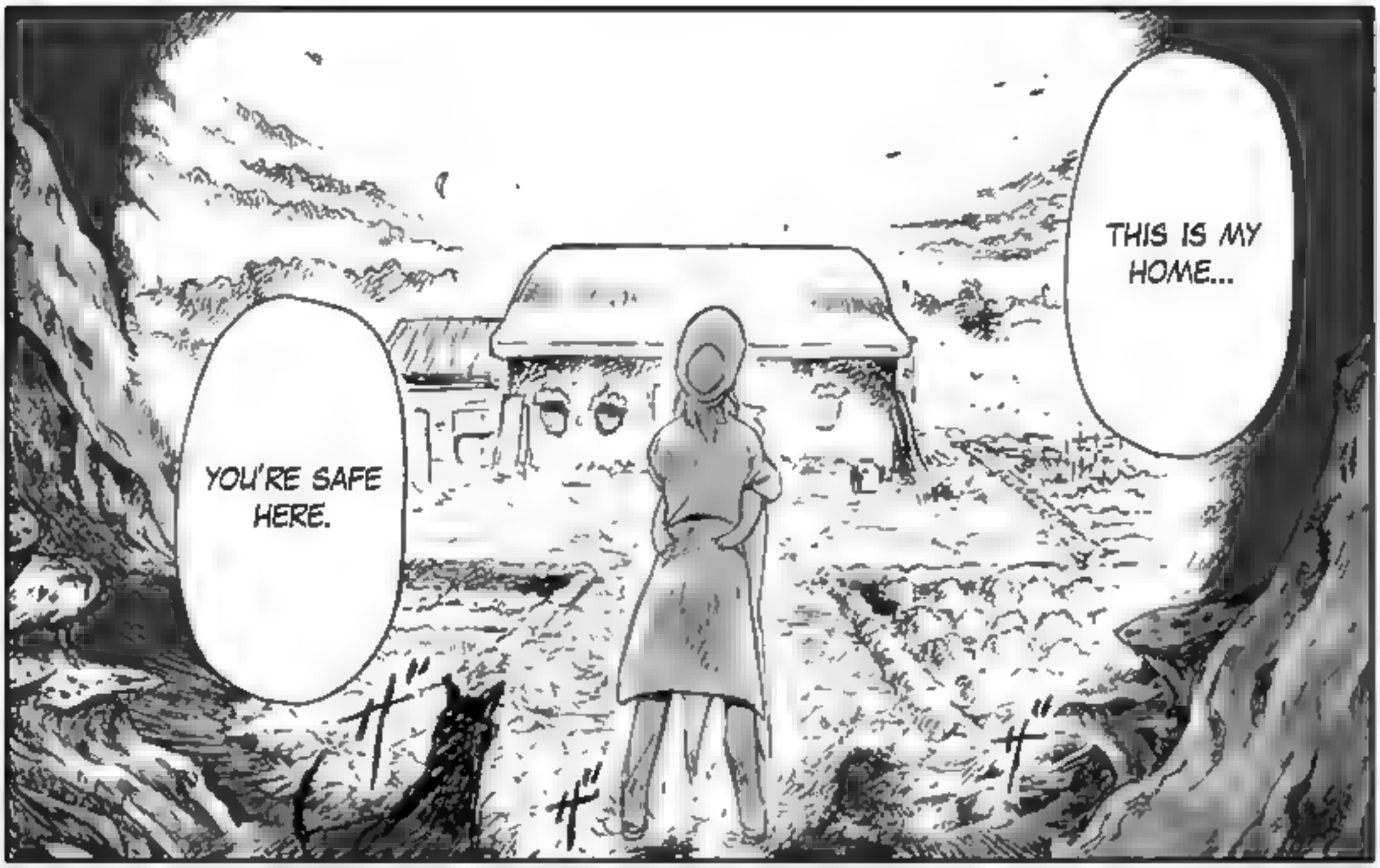
NEVER EVER...

80

YES.

21

LOOK...



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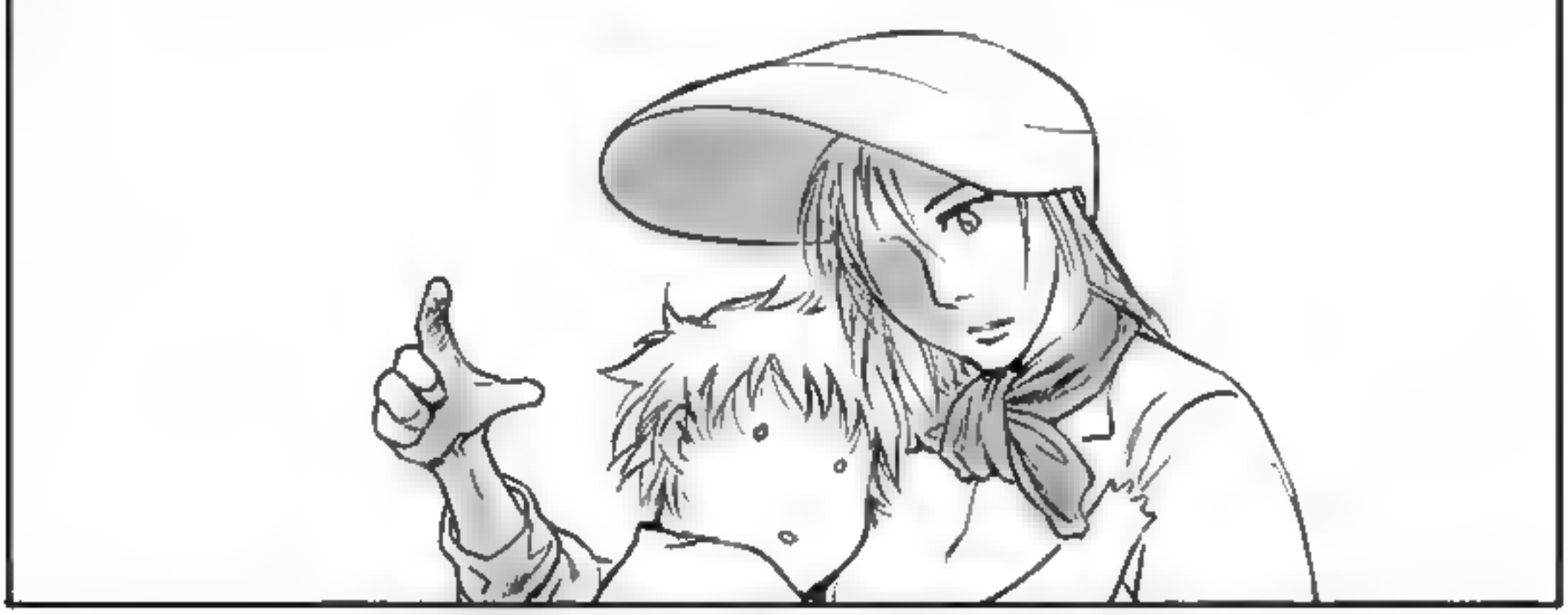

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THERE'S NOTHING TO BE SCARED OF HERE.

NOTHING AT ALL...

CHAPTER 27 PROVOCATION [17 WEEKS]

ゴォン

ゴォン

2

ゴ"

ゴ"

SNAP

SHAKE

3

AAAGHHH

KEN! WHERE ARE YOU GOING!?

.....

!

GET BACK HERE!

LIKE THIS! ♥

IT WAVED AT ME WITH ITS WINGS!

GET DOWN, IT'S DAN-GER-OUS.

DAMN THOSE BASTARDS!

WHAT...?

STOP IT, THEY'LL JUST COME BACK.

I'M SICK AND TIRED OF THIS!

I SAID STOP!

HEY, WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING!?

STOP IT...!

ARE YOU INSANE!?

WELL, OF COURSE! THAT'S THEIR WHOLE POINT!

BUT THEY'RE JUST TAUNTING US OUT THERE...

YOU'LL GET ALL OF US HERE KILLED!

……

THIS IS A DEMILITAR-IZED BUFFER ZONE!

THEY WON'T ATTACK US AS LONG AS WE DON'T ATTACK THEM!

SO WE HAVE TO IGNORE THEIR PROVOCATIONS!

BUT THEY'VE BEEN AT IT EVERY DAY AND NIGHT...

JUST HOW LONG DO WE HAVE TO KEEP WAITING IN FEAR...?

THAT'S ENOUGH!

MOM,

THERE ARE KIDS LISTEN-ING!

THEY HAVE ENOUGH FIREPOWER TO DESTROY ALL OF US MORE THAN 3 TIMES OVER...

IF THEY'RE JUST GONNA KILL US ANYWAYS, THEY SHOULD JUST GET IT OVER WITH ALREADY...

……

I'M SORRY

IT WAS MY FAULT.

SHE'S DEPENDING ON ME...

SHE SAID SHE'D BE OFF PROTECTING HAST,

SO I SHOULD DO MY BEST TO PROTECT OUR VILLAGE IN THE MEANWHILE.

SIS SAID SHE WAS COUNTING ON ME.

I'LL BE A GOOD BOY AND KEEP THE VILLAGE SAFE UNTIL SIS AND LARO GET BACK...

I PROMISE I WON'T DO ANYTHING I'M NOT ALLOWED TO ANYMORE.

LARO, TOO.

AND LEFT THE PLACE IN MY CARE...

HE EVEN GAVE ME HIS FAVOURITE HAT,

WE ALL NEED TO MAINTAIN A COOL HEAD.

EXACTLY.

SO NO MATTER HOW MANY DAYS AND NIGHTS THEY SORTIE ACROSS THE SKIES HERE,

THOSE UNMANNED PLANES ARE PILOTED BY A.I. PILOTS.

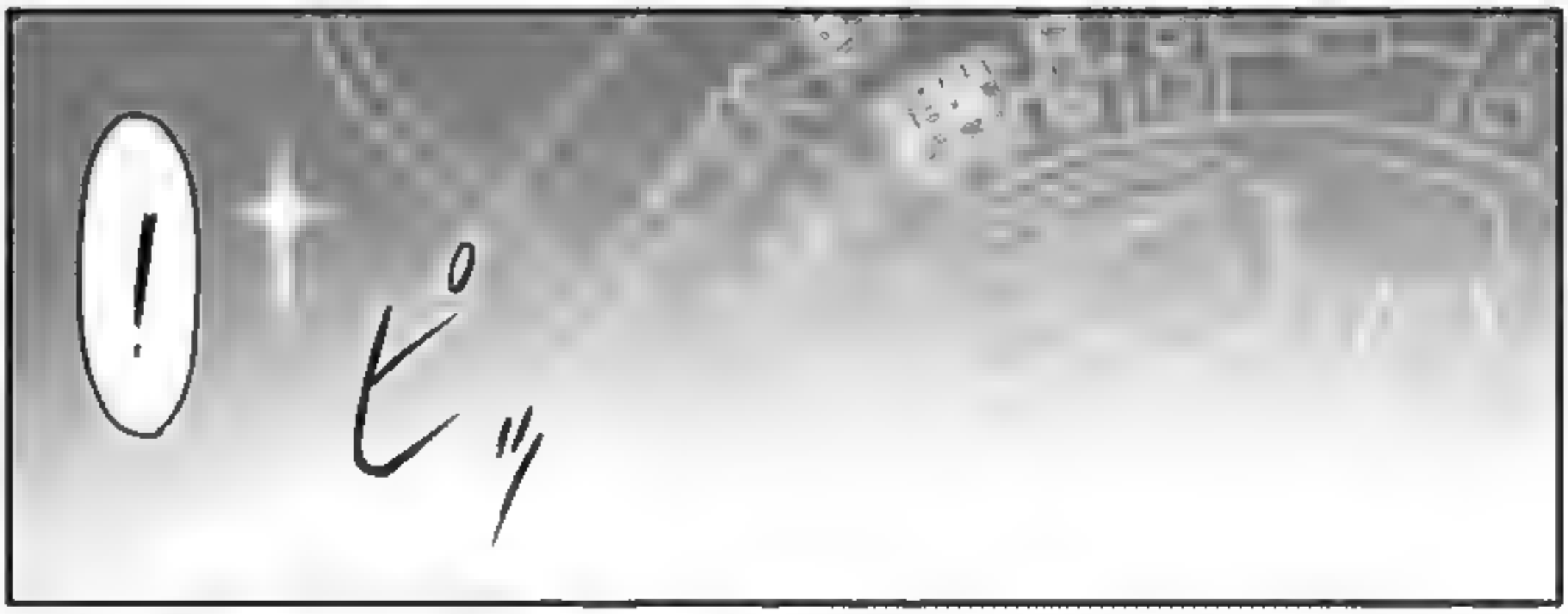
OR GET TIRED.

THEY WON'T EVER LOSE THEIR INTEREST,

THAT'S THE ONLY WAY WE CAN STAVE OFF DEFEAT...

SO WE'LL HAVE TO DO ONE BETTER THAN THEM BY RESTRAINING OURSELVES.

10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A NEW TRANSFER POINT.

11

THERE'S NO MORE TIME LEFT. THAT'LL HAVE TO BE OUR FINAL RECLAIMED POINT FOR NOW.
USE THIS MAP AS THE LATEST VERSION TO FINALIZE OUR BATTLE PLANS!
THAT'S THE 12TH ONE, YES?
YES.

HOW'S OGA HOLDING UP?

CHIEF MIMI.

HOLD ON...

SHE JUST CAME BACK FROM RECLAMA-TION.

12

THOUGH OF COURSE, SHE IS QUITE TIRED...

SHE JUST WOKE UP.

SHE'S NOT EXHIBITING ANY PAR-TICULAR ABNORMAL-ITIES,

MANA? ARE YOU ALRIGHT?

14

Sgt. Armea! Where are you!?

The battle plan meeting has already begun!

S...

I KNOW THAT! JUST KEEP YOUR COOL!

BESIDES, DON'T YOU DESCENT CORPS BOAST ABOUT "GETTING THE JOB DONE" NO MATTER WHERE YOU'RE FLOWN TO?

We've got barely 6 hours until the sortie.

But the organization of the descent squads still haven't been decided!

I'M ON MY WAY RIGHT NOW!

THINKING BACK,

BY THAT POINT IN TIME,

SOME IRREVERSIBLE CHANGE MUST HAVE ALREADY OCCURRED WITHIN OGA.

WHO HAD THE TIME TO PAY ATTENTION TO THE MINUTE CHANGE OF A SINGLE SOLDIER...?

BUT WITH JUST A FEW HOURS LEFT BEFORE A BATTLE THAT WOULD DECIDE OUR NATION'S VERY EXISTENCE,

THE MOON NOW RISES.

A MOON THAT WOULD SOON BE SOAKED RED IN BLOOD...

CHAPTER 28 ASSAULT ON THE CAPITAL [18 WEEKS]

Descent Platoon #2 is to assemble at transfer chamber #1 and prepare for transfer.
As soon as poss-
HURRY UP AND GET YOUR-SELVES OUTFITTED!
Descent Platoon #4 will make a transfer-descent to the South Step Base.
Squad members should assemble at transfer chamber #3 at once.
DON'T WASTE ANY TIME!

ANYTHING'LL DO. EVEN ABOUT HOW BADLY YOU WANNA COME HOME AND SUCKLE ON HER TITS LIKE A BABY

I... I'M NOT A BABY ANYMORE, SIR.

HEY, DID YOU MANAGE TO WRITE A PROPER WILL TO YOUR MOM?

Y... YES, KINDA, SIR...

I REALLY WASN'T SURE WHAT TO WRITE THOUGH...

THEN WHAT'S THAT? IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S ABOUT TO BURST

THEY'RE MY RATIONS, SIR.

7

THAT'S WHAT WE WROTE THOSE WILLS FOR, HAHA!

WELL...

BUT WHAT IF WE'RE NOT RETRIEVED IN TIME...?

THERE'S NO NEED FOR THAT IT'S ONLY A 3 HOUR MISSION.

3

AN SPG (SELF-PROPELLED GUN)? I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW WE HAD SOME LEFT

ONE OF OUR FEW, VALUABLE PIECES.

GOOD, YOU'RE ALL HERE.

PLATOON LEADER MAX REPORTING IN WITH HIS TEAM OF 8 MEMBERS!

WE'LL ISSUE THE LATEST MAPS.

EACH MAN WILL HAVE ONE PART SO DON'T LOSE IT!

DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THEY'VE BUILT MUCH HERE?

THERE'S A LOT OF WHITE HERE...

SO UPDATE YOUR DATA NOW.

'CAUSE WHO KNOWS WHEN YOU'LL HAVE ANOTHER CHANCE TO DO SO.

IT'S NO ERROR!

.....

SIR, THERE'S A LARGE BLANK SPACE IN OUR PLATOON'S SCHEDULED ROUTE.

IS THIS SOME SORT OF ERROR?

OR...

THERE MAY BE A BOTANICAL GARDEN THERE.

!

EVEN IF THE WHOLE MAP WERE BLANK,

WE WILL NOT SHOW ANY FEAR!

THAT BEING SAID!

IT MAY BE A STORAGE SPACE FILLED WITH TETRAPODS.

THEN IT'S ENTIRELY UP TO US TO FINISH THE JOB!

IF THE TRANSFER CORPS WERE TO PROVE UNABLE TO COMPLETE THEIR AAT,

TO INFILTRATE DEEP INTO THE CAPITAL AND GOUGE OUT ITS VERY EXISTENCE FROM THIS PLANET!

IT'LL BE US, THE DESCENT CORPS,

NO, SIR, NO!

HAS ANYONE'S BALLS HERE SHRIVELED AND HID BACK UP IN HIS PELVIS!?

NO, SIR, NO!

IS ANY SOLDIER HERE AFRAID OF THE ABYSS!?

SO LET US DESTROY THE ENEMY'S CAPITAL,

AND SHOW THOSE SECONDS WHOSE PLANET THIS REALLY IS!

THE DESCENT CORPS IS THE MOST FEARLESS ARM OF THE MILITARY!

DESTROY! THE! CAPITAL!

DESTROY! THE! CAPITAL!

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Transfer soldiers' Changing Room

TAP TAP

I'M FINE.

I HAD MY NANOMACHINE ADJUSTED FROM COLONIST MODE TO JUMP MODE.

AND I EVEN TOOK SOME PAINKILLERS.

MANA, YOU OK?

DO YOU STILL HAVE A HEAD-ACHE?

OH, THAT'S RIGHT!

MAYBE YOU CAN ASK THE DESCENT CORPS FOR THEIR PAINKI-

ABSO-LUTELY NOT!

IT CAN'T BE...

YOU MEAN PLACEBOS?

I BET THEY'RE JUST, LIKE, SUGAR PILLS.

BUT THE PAINKILLERS THEY PROVIDE FOR US HARDLY WORK.

EVEN IF UNLIKELY, IF YOU WERE UNABLE TO FLY WHEN YOU MOST NEEDED TO...

YOU KNOW WE'RE FORBIDDEN FROM TAKING ANY DRUGS THAT MIGHT NEGA-TIVELY AFFECT OUR TRANSFER ORGAN'S CAPABILITIES.

SHEDD'S RIGHT

IT'S FINE, KEI.

SHEDD!

WE'LL ALL END UP DEAD.

MY HEAD'S BOUND TO FEEL GREAT FOR SURE!

BESIDES, ONCE WE BLAST THEIR CAPITAL AWAY TO BITS,

ALRIGHT, LET'S GO!

MAY THE GODDESS OF THE MOON PROTECT US!

MAY THE GODDESS OF THE MOON PROTECT US...

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LET'S MOVE!

Where the fuck are you, Cass!? Get your ass over here ASAP!

OH SHIT

Recon transfer soldiers will stay on standby at the recon chamber.

All transfer soldiers are to report in at their respect-ive transfer chambers within the next 5 minutes!

?!

NEXT!

RIGHT.

YEAH, LET'S GO.

HEY!

DON'T DIE OUT THERE, GUYS...

JUST...

12

I WAS ONLY CON-CERNED FOR YOUR SAKES!

NO NEED TO BE SO RUDE ABOUT IT!

CASS!

JUST DO YOUR FUCKIN' JOB GUIDING US PROPERLY AND WE'LL BE BACK IN NO TIME!

SO STOP GIVING US THAT SAD PUPPY-DOG LOOK!

TO THINK THEY'D MAKE YOU THE DRIVER AS WELL...

...OH, I SEE.

I HEARD THE ENTIRE TRANSFER CORPS IS BEING MOBILIZED FOR THIS PLAN.

BUT THIS ABILITY WILL ONLY GET IN THE WAY FOR A DESCENT OPERATION.

YOU HAVE THE POWER TO CHANGE THE IMAGES WITHIN YOUR COORDINATE SPACE,

I HEARD FROM SGT. ARMEA THAT THERE WAS ONCE A TRANSFER SOLDIER WHO COULD JUMP ANYWHERE,

EVEN AS SHE CREATED ALL SORTS OF IMAGES IN THE COORDINATE SPACE...

GET IN THE WAY? WHY'S THAT?

THAT WAS, WELL...

AFTER SHE LOST HER SANITY.

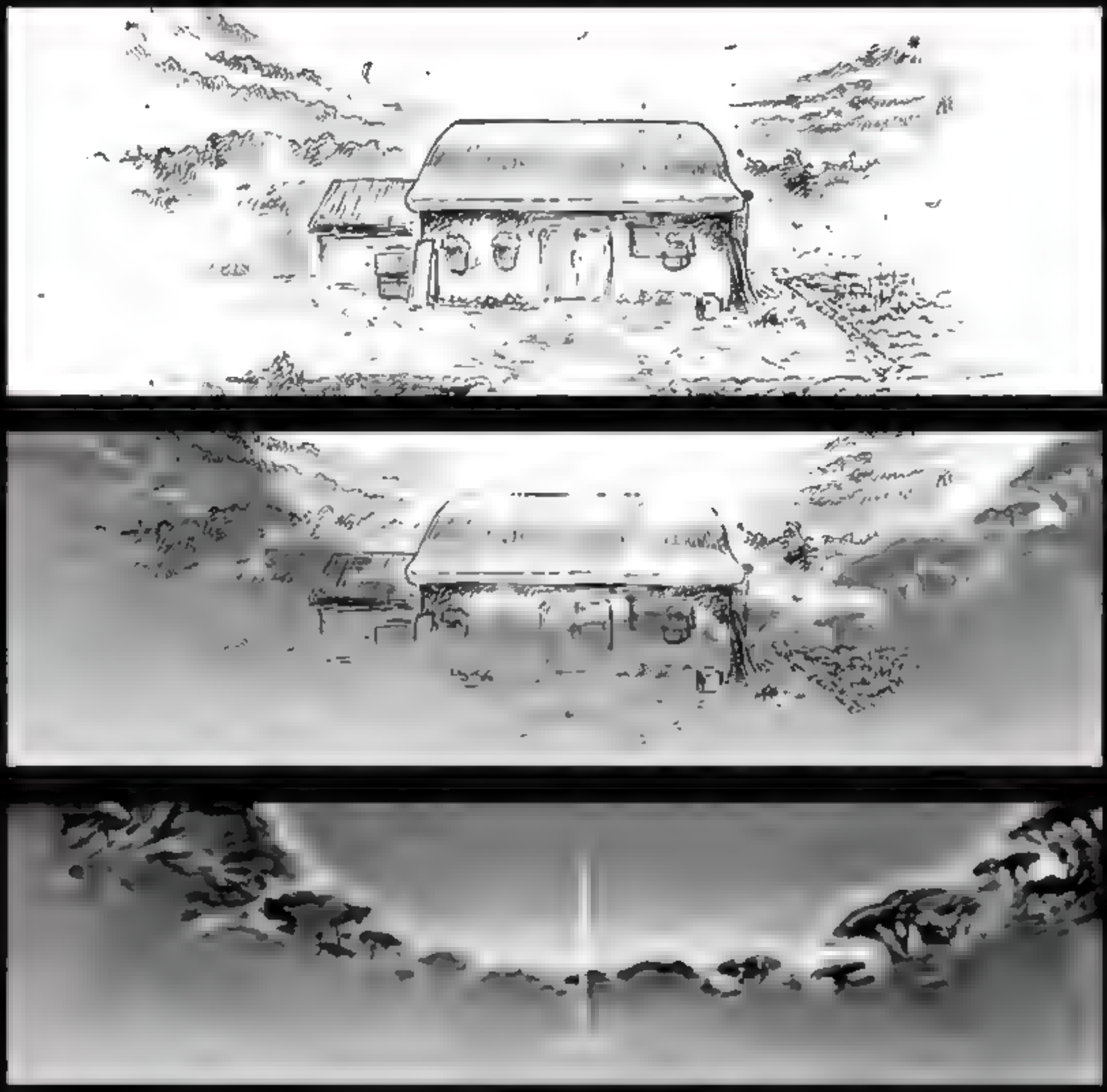
YOU STILL HAVE YOUR SANITY.

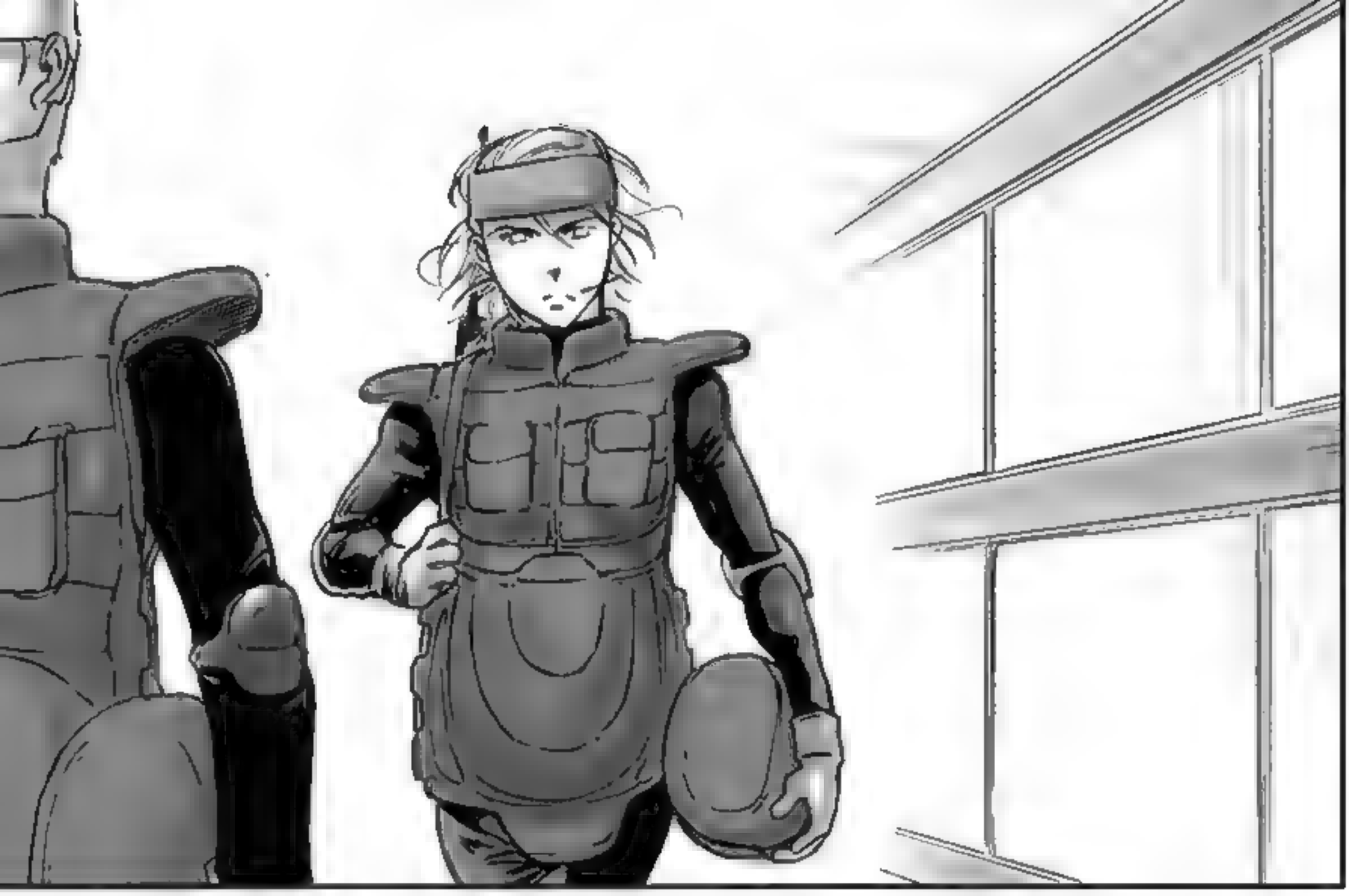
FOR NOW, AT LEAST...

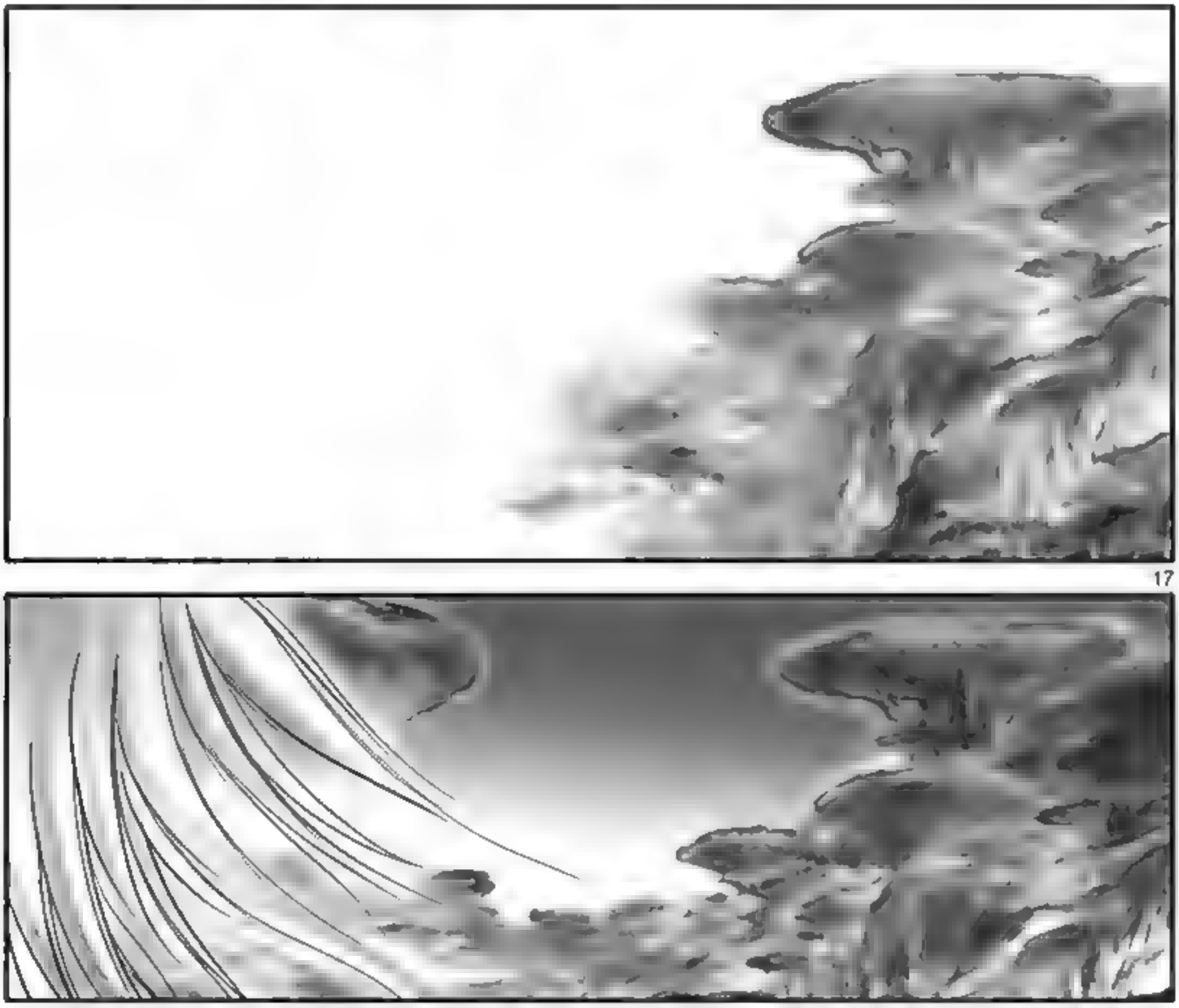
LET ME KNOW IF IT HURTS.

I'LL RE-ADJUST YOUR NANOMACHINE FROM COLONIST MODE TO JUMP MODE.

OK...







IT SMELLS.

IT SMELLS OF THOSE BLACK DOGS.

SNIFF

.....

IT'S JUST THEIR SCENT.

I ONLY DETECT,

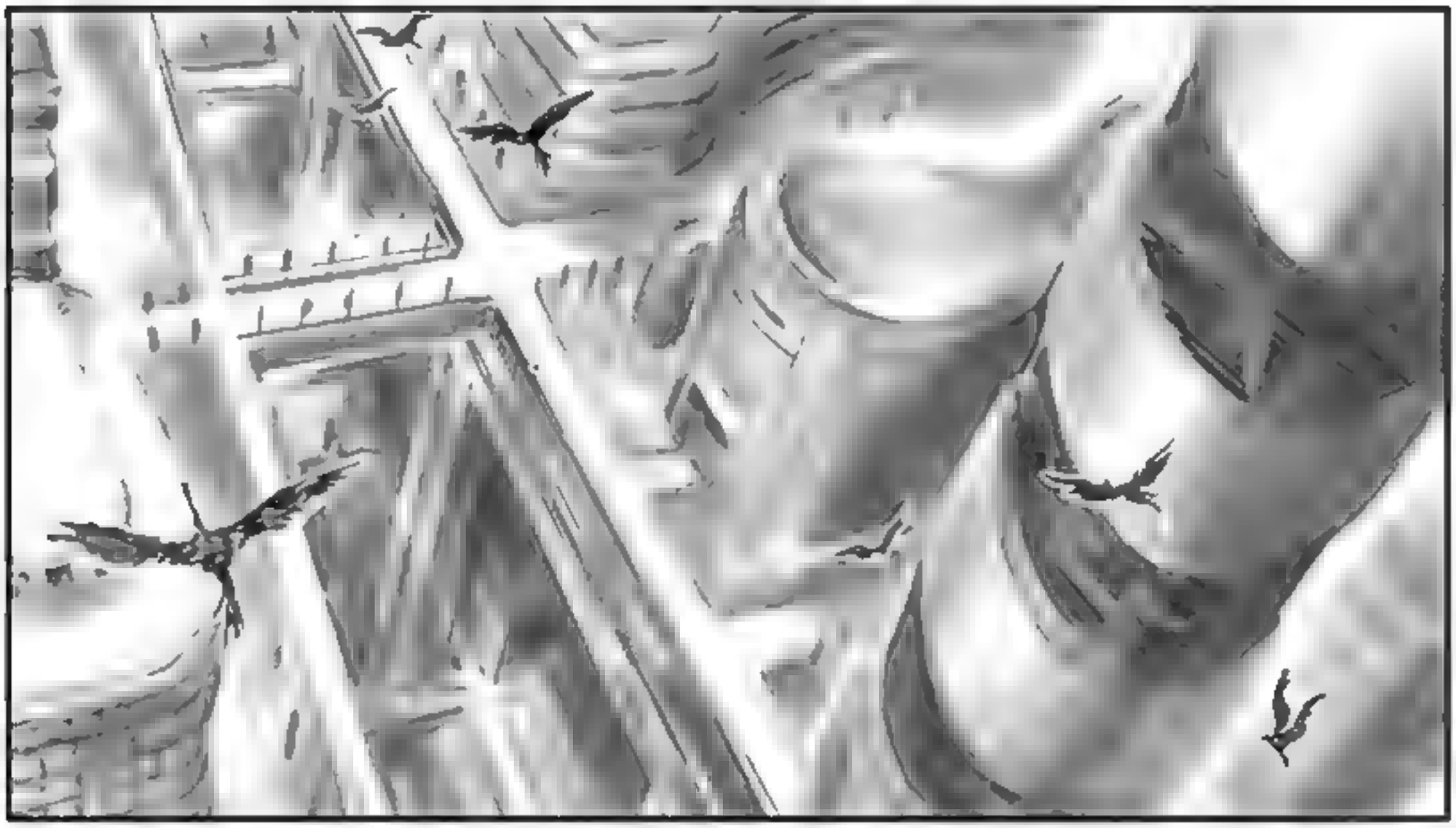
THEIR SCENT FILLING UP THE AIR...

I DON'T SENSE THEM COMING HERE.

WAIT.

JUST WHAT...

ARE THEY PLANNING?



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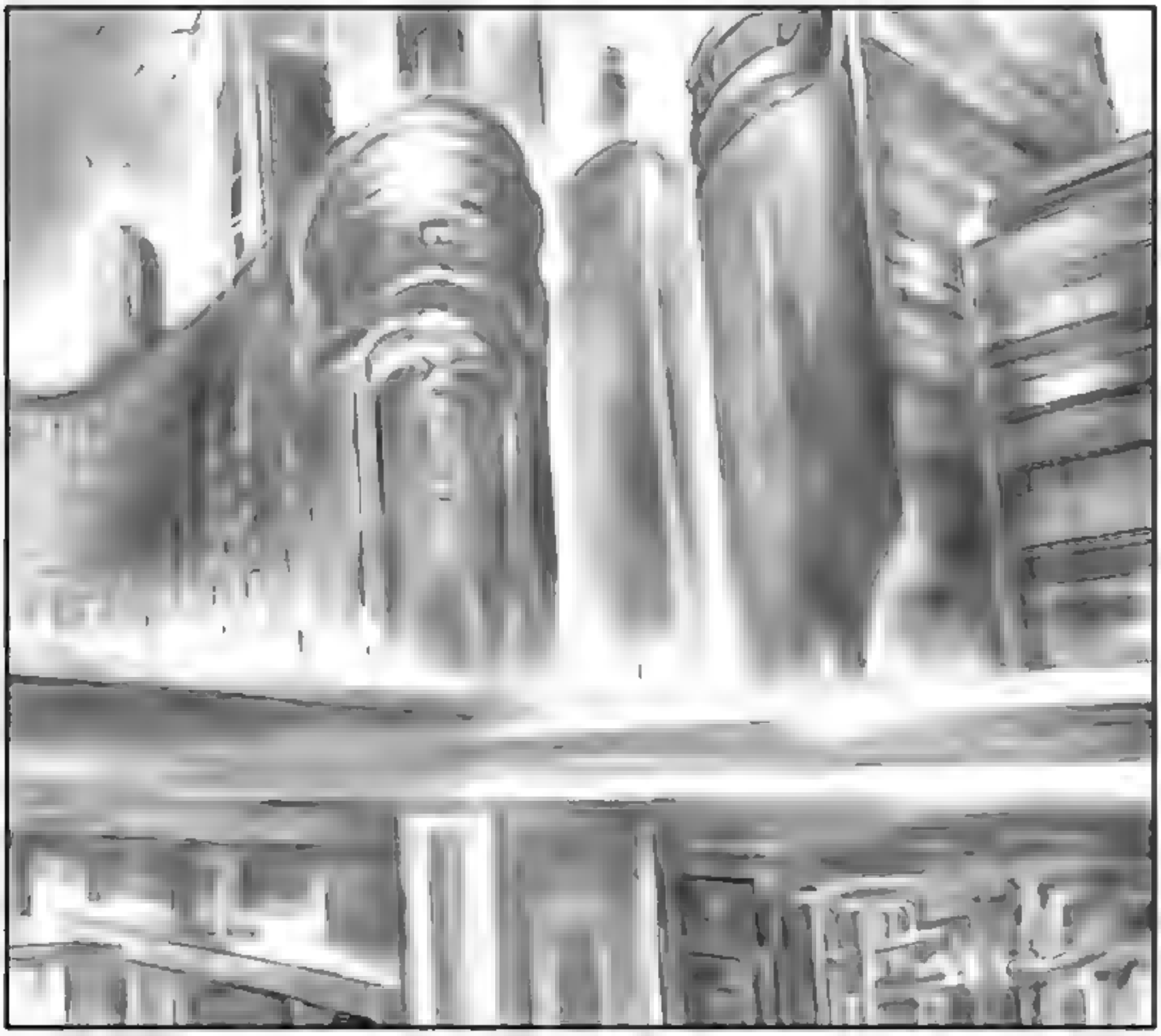

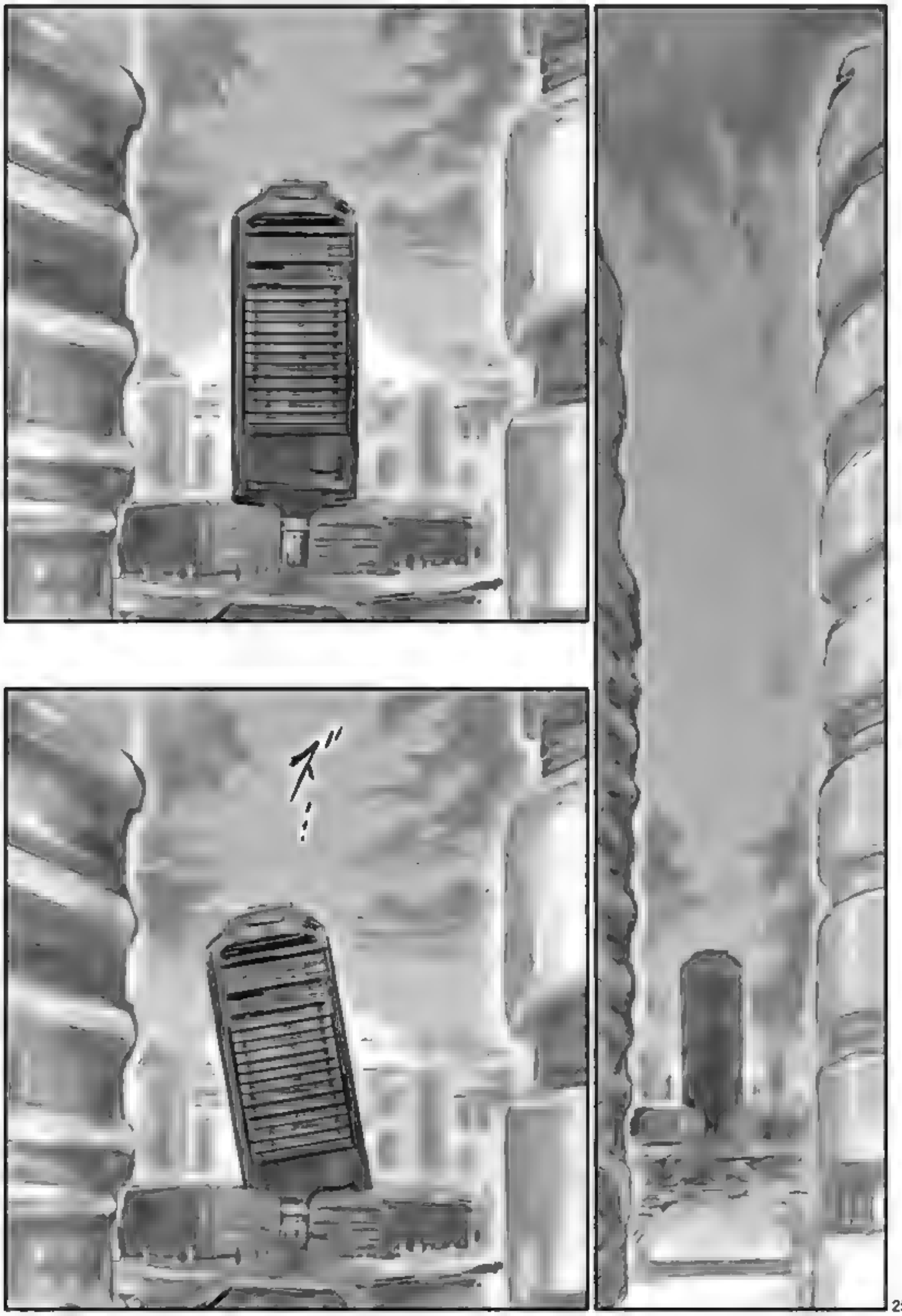

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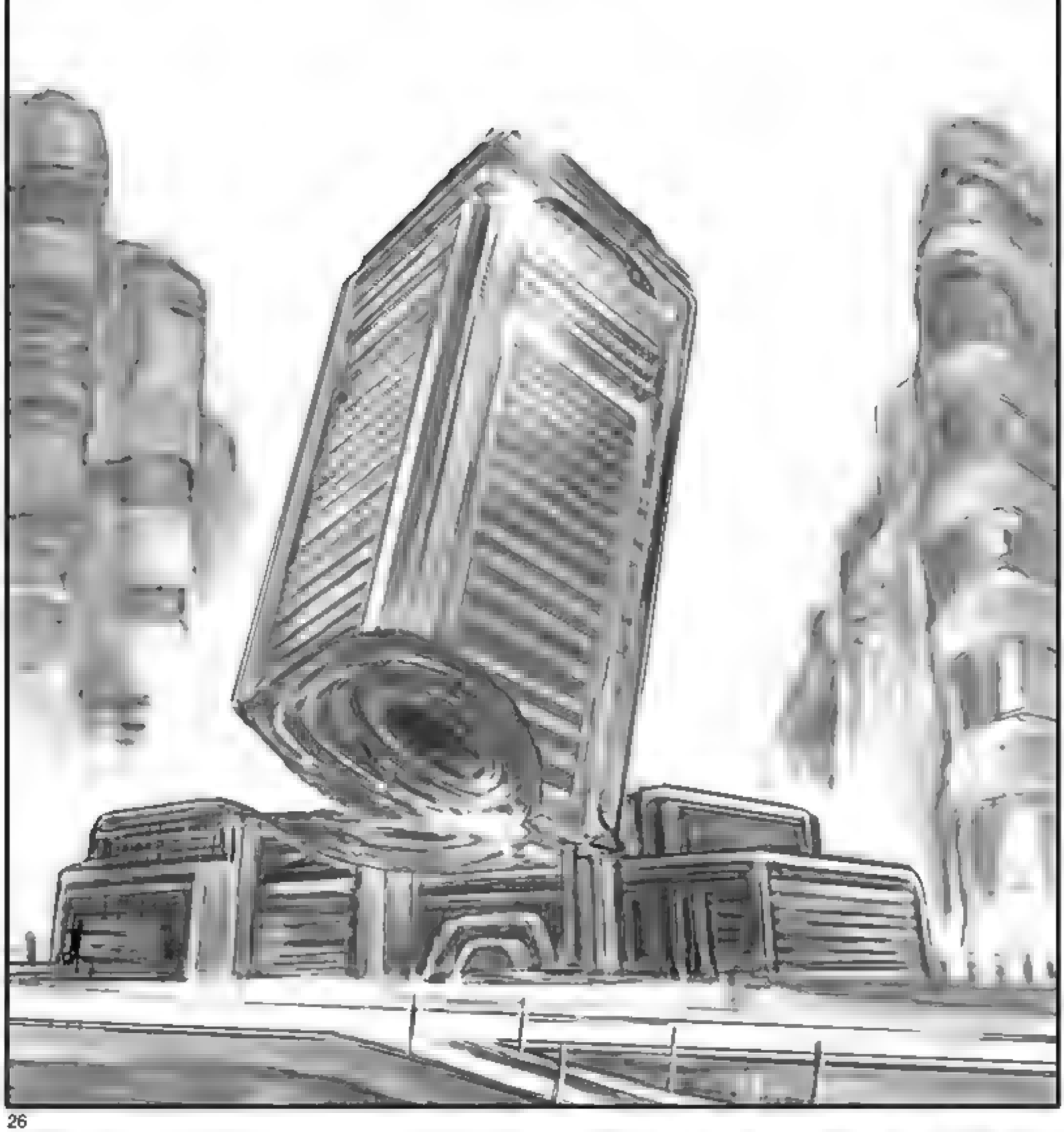

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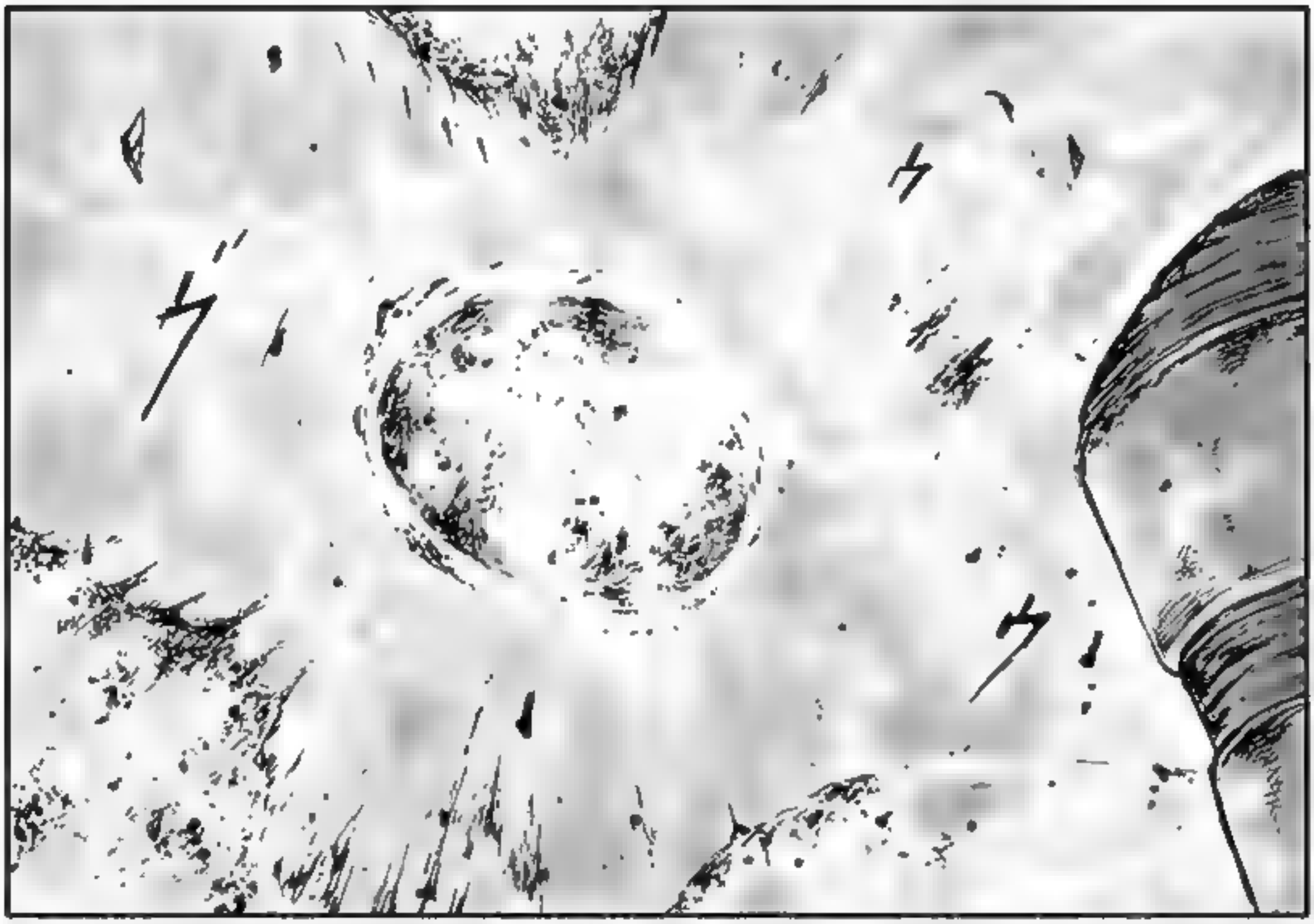

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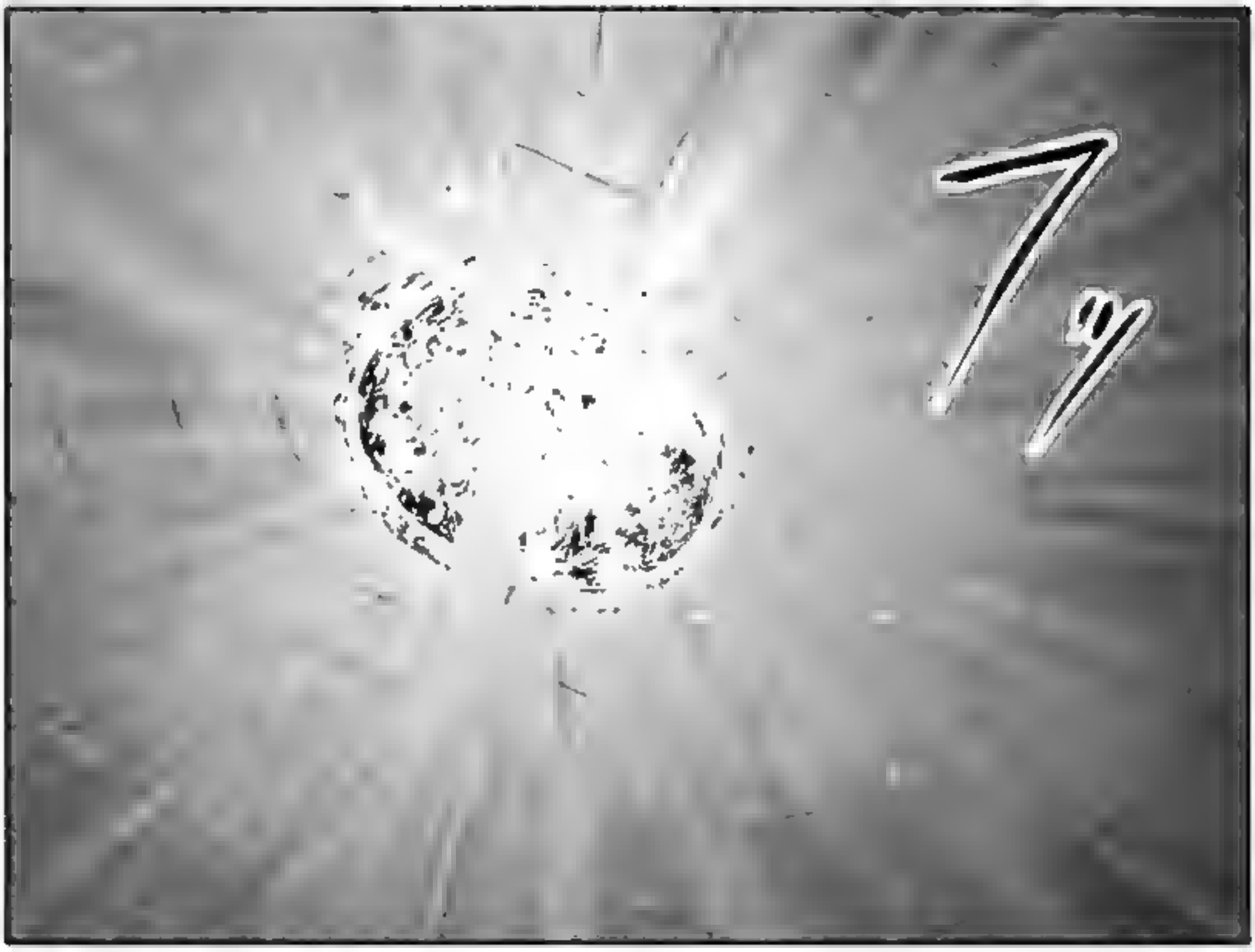

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ARE WE CLEAR FOR THE 2ND WAVE?

PHASE 1, AAT 1ST WAVE, COMPLETE!

PRIE-MEVAL FOREST BASE TEAM 3!? ARE...

SOUTH BASE TEAM IS GOOD TO GO!

NORTH BASE TEAM 1 IS GOOD TO GO!

ARE YOU ALL THERE!?

THEN LET'S GO FOR THE 2ND WAVE!

RIVERA, OK.

ORLANT, OK.

SHIOTA, OK.

ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS GRAB THE ANCHORS DROPPED BY THE RECON TROOPS FROM UP ABOVE.

DON'T WORRY.

THAT'S ALL.

AS LONG AS YOU DON'T LOSE SIGHT OF THE ANCHORS...

32

AS LONG AS I CAN FIND THEM...

MANA! HURRY!

NEXT!

34

RETURN TO BASE!

AND WE'LL BE...

OTHERWISE, WE'LL BE CAUGHT IN THE BLAST WE SET OFF,

I CAN'T STOP EVEN FOR A SECOND.

NEXT!

バラ

PAPAPAH!

バラ

THUNK!

HUFF

HUFF

ゴゴゴゴ

QUICKLY!

ﾄﾞﾄﾞﾄﾞ

GET INTO FORMATION WITHIN 20 SECONDS!

DESCENT TROOPS! MOVE YOUR ASSES!

ADJUST

I'M FINE.

NO,

ARE YOU HURT?

ARE YOU THE DRIVER!?

COMMENCE DESCENT OPERATIONS!

ENTERING PHASE 2!

CHAPTER 29 DESCENT OPERATION [18 WEEKS]

COMM-SQUADS TRANS-FERRED! BEGINNING TO GATHER INFO!

AA-GUN TRANSFER COMPLETE.

DESCENT TROOPS CAN NOW BE COVERED!

ARE ALL SQUADS GOOD TO SORTIE!?

GET A MOVE ON QUICKLY NOW WHILE YOU CAN!

THE TETRA-PODS ARE STARTING TO MOVE!

WAIT!

WE'RE ALL GOOD TO GO HERE!

THANKS, KEI.

THERE'S A PERSON HERE WITH HIS TOE STICKING OUT AGAIN.

I CAN EFFORT-LESSLY TELL WHETHER EVERYONE'S SAFELY INSIDE OUR FORMATION OR NOT.

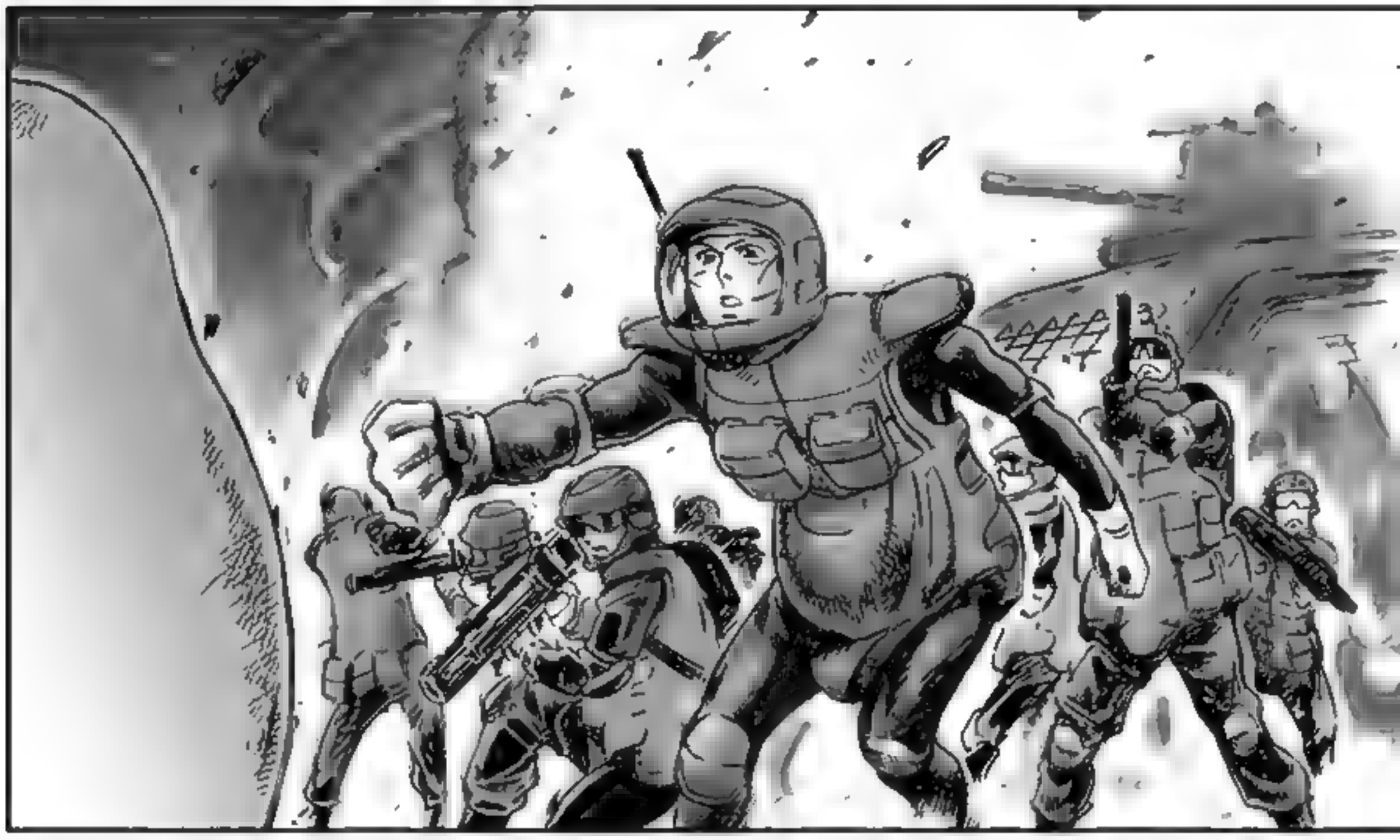
IT COMES TO ME SO EASILY THESE DAYS...

SO COULD THIS MAYBE BE MY NATURAL GIFT?

CASS WAS GIFTED WITH HIGH VANTAGE VISION,

5

4



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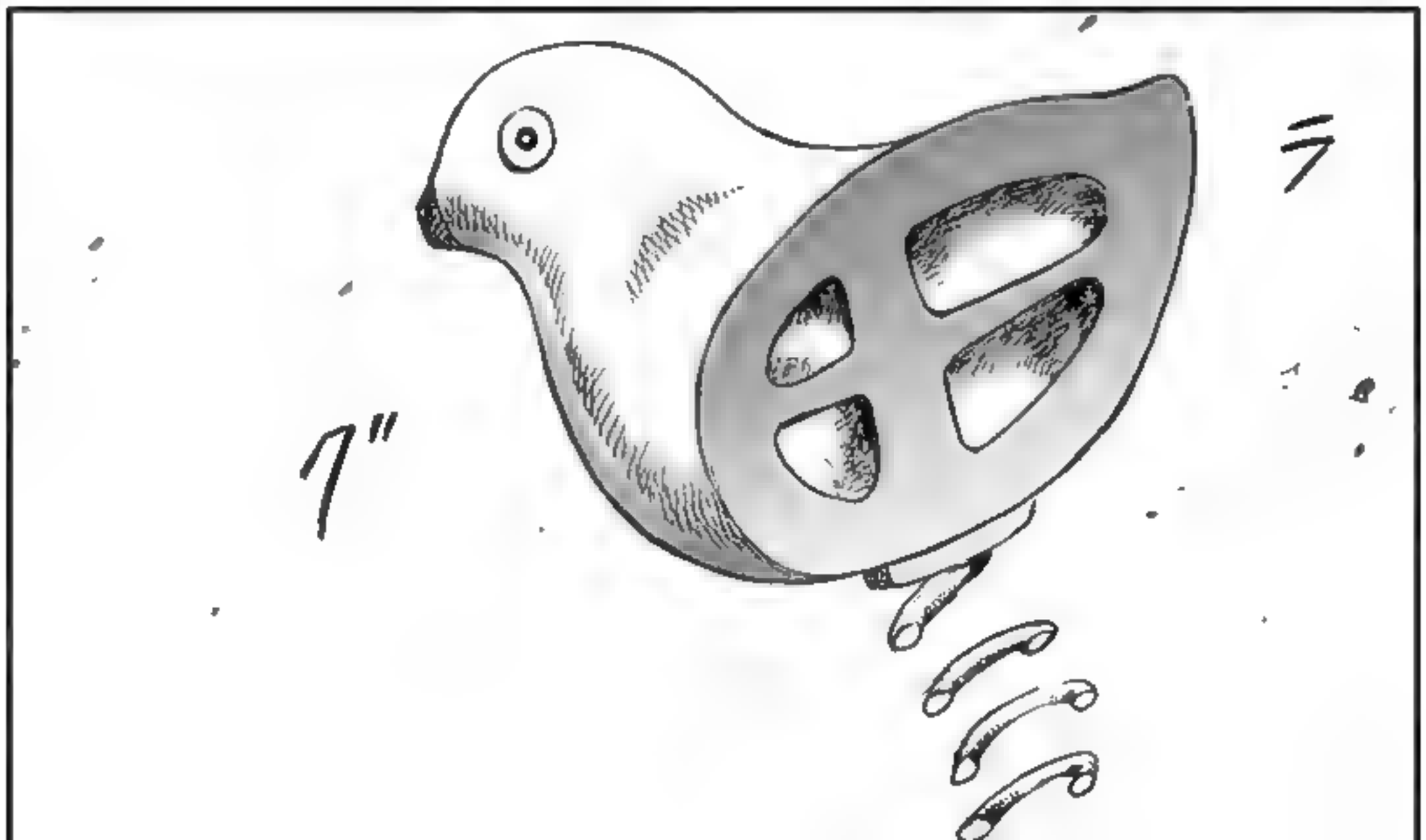

DESCENT SQUAD, LET'S MOVE!

A RIDE FOR KIDS...

SENDING OUT RECON-DRONE!

MOVE OUT!

CLICK

MAN THE VEHICLE!

THE TETRA-POD IS-

BEEP

PLATOON LEADER!

WHAT!?

WE NEED TO TRANSFER THE NEXT PLATOON!

MANA, WE HAVE TO GET BACK!

WE'LL RETURN IN FORMA-TION-O!

G-GATHER AROUND, TEAM!

8

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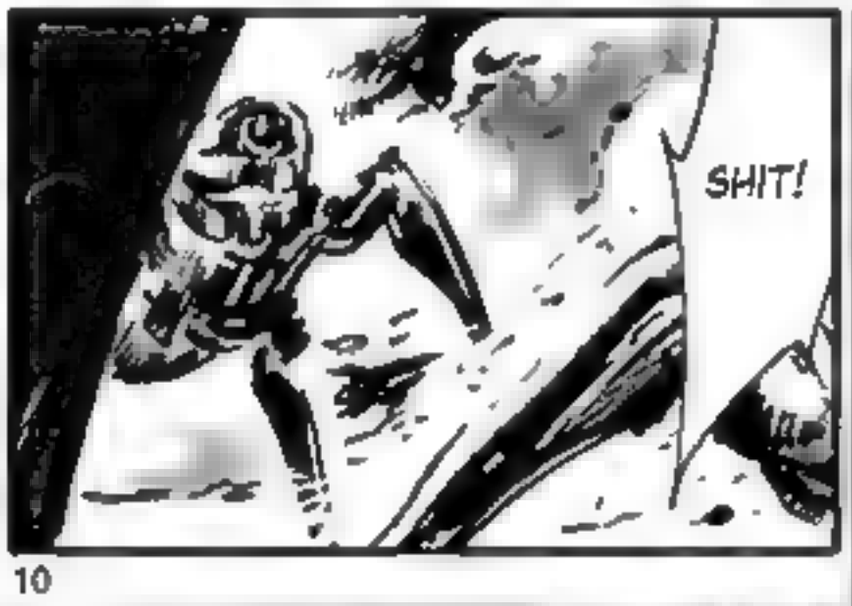
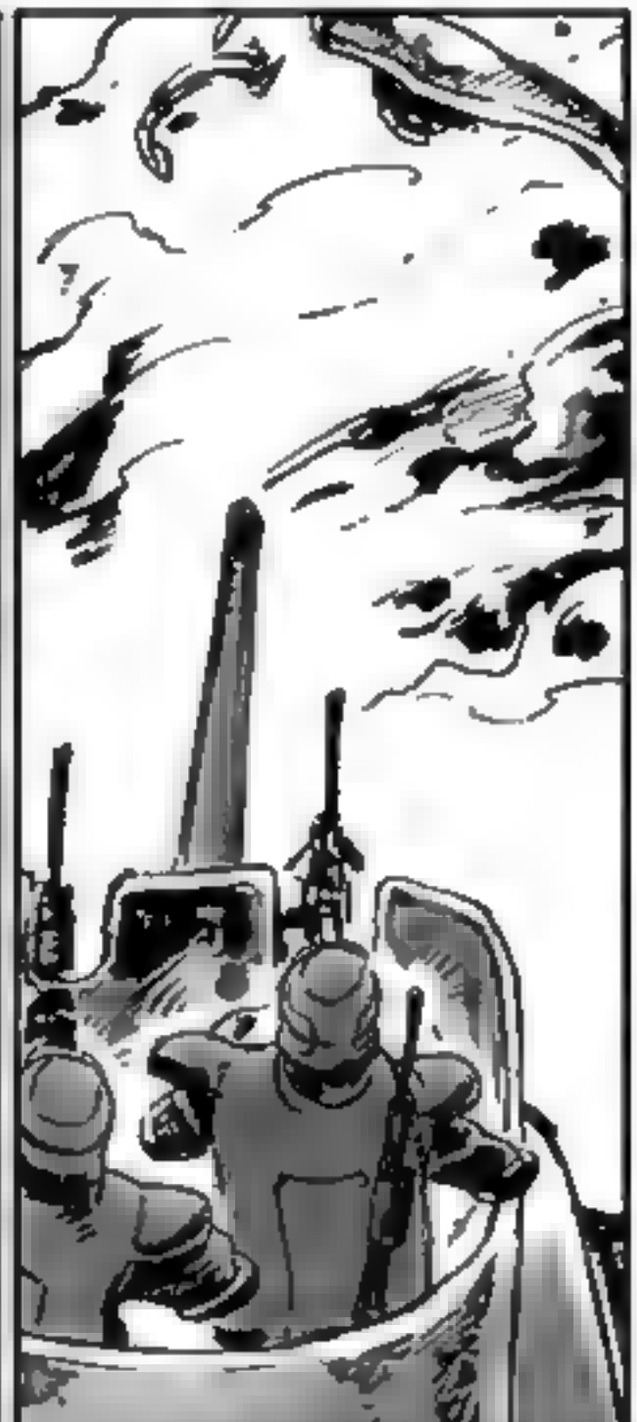

SHIT!

DID WE GET IT?
THERE'S ANOTHER BEHIND IT!



Are you wombs still fucking here!?

Wake the fuck up!

Shedd...

PLEASE DRAW THE TETRAPOD OVER OUR WAY!

WE CAN TAKE THAT THING OUT WITH A SMALL-SCALE AAT...

CAN YOU HEAR ME, PLATOON LEADER?

SHEDD, WE HAVE TO GO!

So go back to base and bring the next platoon over ASAP!

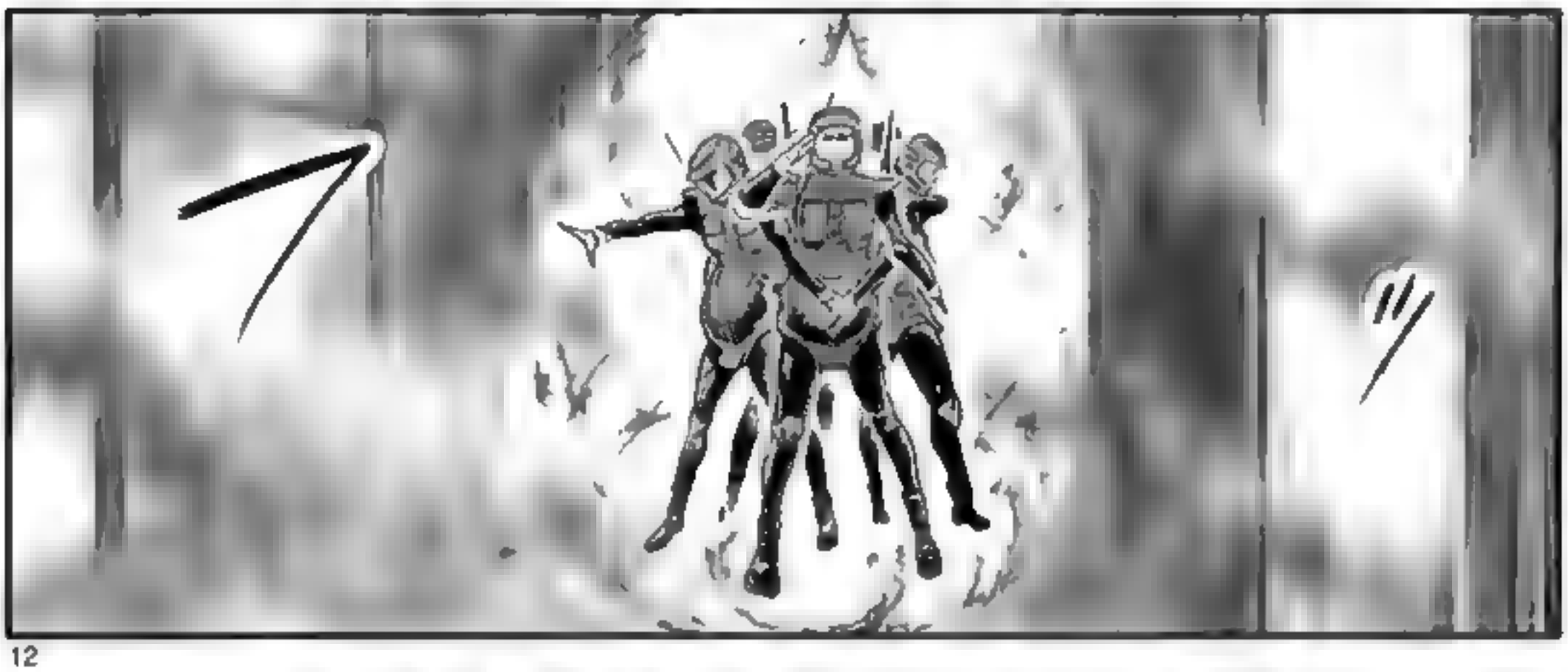
It's our duty to keep you safe,

If you don't get back safely, we'll be stuck here forever!

ASSUME FORMATION 0-6!

SHEDD, WE'RE GOING!

WE PROMISE!
O... OF COURSE!
DON'T JUST LEAVE US HERE IN HELL!
JUST BE SURE TO COME BACK FOR US LATER!



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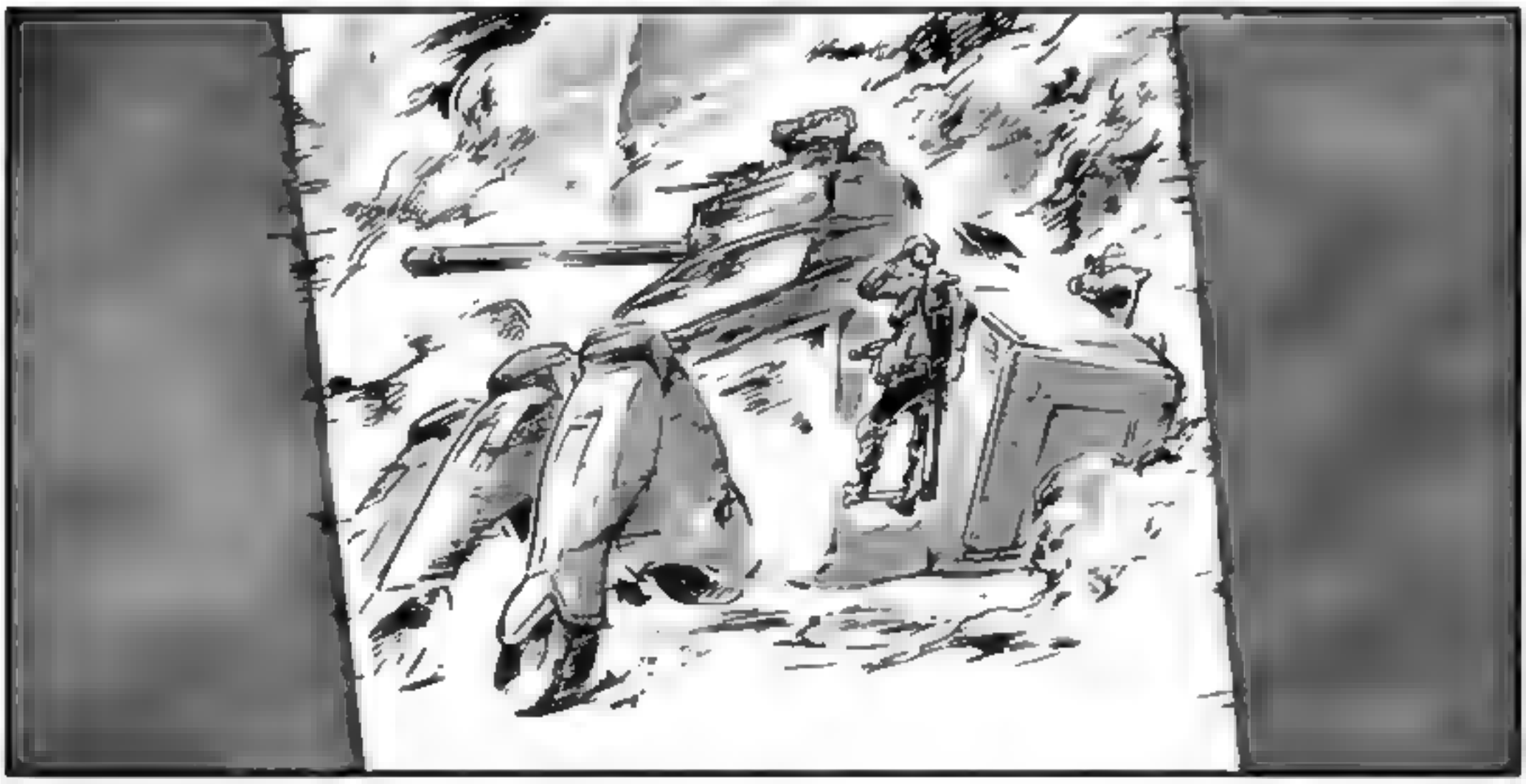

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13

WE TRANS-
FERRED AS
MANY
DESCENT
TROOPS AS
WE COULD.
IN THE ENSUING
10 MINUTES,

14

WE SENT OVER NEARLY 200 TROOPS.

CHANGING OUR LANDING POINT EACH TIME,

YES, SIR!

SHEDD, COME WITH ME!

YOU'LL BE SWITCHING OVER TO POINT-DEFENSE!

IS EVERYONE BACK!

SGT.!

YOU STAY HERE FOR NOW AND LOOK AFTER MARIA!

WHA!?

WHAT ABOUT ME, SGT !?

YES, SIR!

I'M GOOD TO FLY ANY-WHERE!

SO GET OVER TO CHAMBER #3!

KEI! YOU'LL BE DEFENDING THE AA-GUNS!

JUST TAKE HER OUT TO THE LOBBY TO REST A BIT!

THEY'RE ALL BUSY TREATING THE SEVERELY WOUNDED!

WHERE'RE THE DOCTORS!?

MARIA!?

Y-

YES, SGT...

YEAH..

MARIA, YOU OK?

DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT NOW.

IT'S ONLY US HERE RIGHT NOW.

THOUGH I'M NOT SURE WHAT THE PROPER TERM IS IF IT'S NOT "PREGNANCY-INDUCED..."

IT'S JUST PREGNANCY-INDUCED HYPERTEN-SION...

UM-

I WENT THROUGH THIS BACK WHEN I WAS PREGNANT TOO...

PRETTY QUIET WITH CASS NOT AROUND, DON'CHA THINK?

GULP

SURE IS.

ALL SHE HAS TO DO IS BASICALLY SLEEP IN THE RECON-CHAMBER.

SOUNDS NICE...

MUST BE NICE BEING HER.

YEAH...

SO THE NEXT STEP IS TO SET UP THE ANCHOR THERE?

UGH, I HATE WHEN THEY BURN IN THE DATA.

.....

18

IT'S SO QUIET HERE IN THE COORDIN-ATE SPACE.

YOU CAN HARDLY FEEL THAT THERE'S A BATTLE RAGING ON AT ALL...

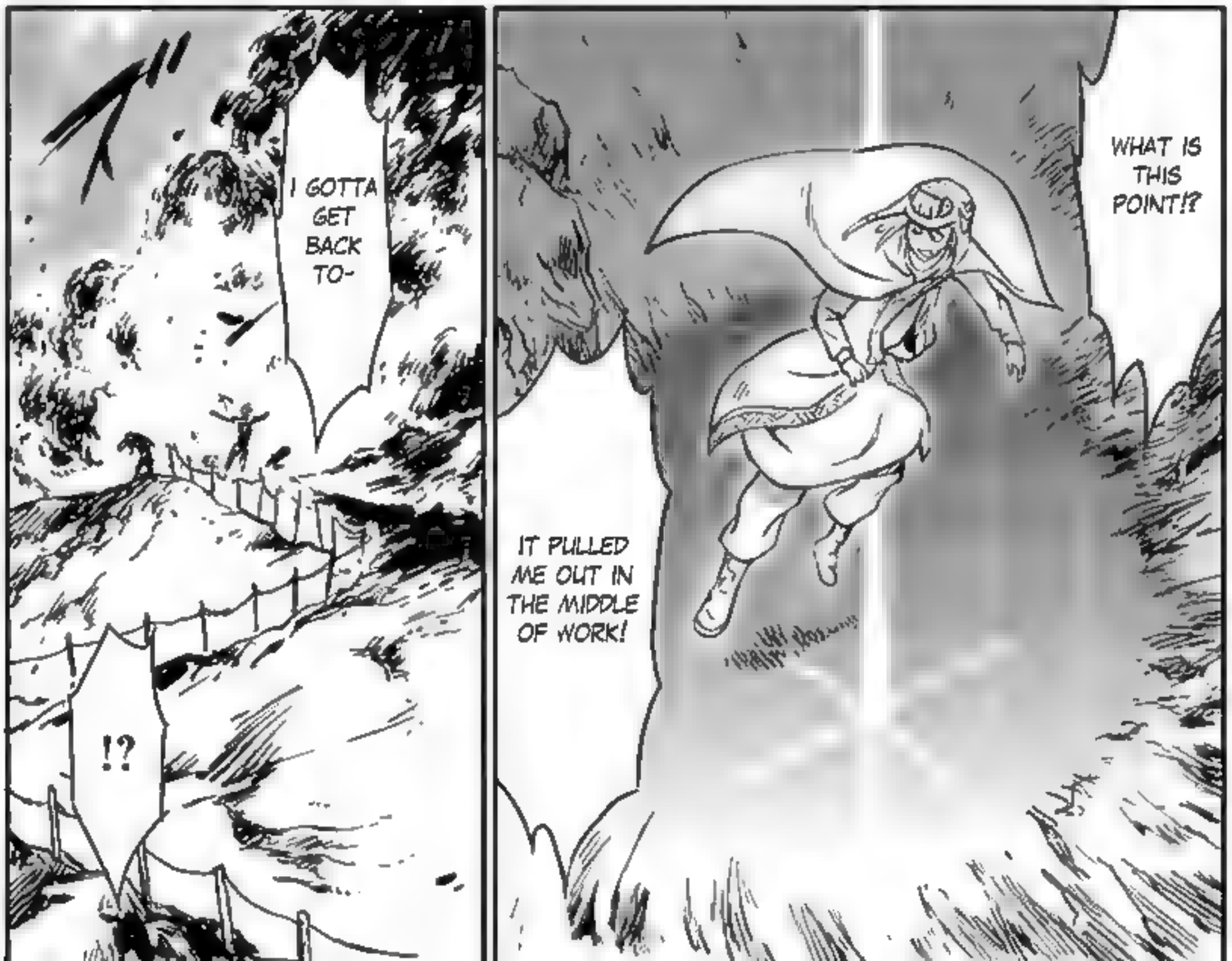
WHAT'S THAT VOICE?

.....

AH-

20

IT'S PULLING ME IN...!


I GOTTA GET BACK TO-
!?
WHAT IS THIS POINT!?
IT PULLED ME OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF WORK!

A BOMBING RAID? WHERE IS THIS...!?

!

MANA!?

WHY'RE YOU HERE TOO!?

I... KNOW WHERE THIS IS...

CASS...

23

Y-YEAH.

CAN YOU SEE THE BOMBS BLASTING TOO...?

IT'S SOME-THING THAT'S ACTUALLY HAPPENING.

THEN THAT MEANS...

THIS... ISN'T JUST AN *IMAGE MADE* BY MY MIND...

WHY...?

.....

24

THEY SHOULDN'T BE ATTACKING UNLESS ATTACKED FIRST...

WASN'T THIS SUPPOZED TO BE A DEMILI-TARIZED NEUTRAL ZONE...?

I HAVE TO SAVE THEM!

はっ

UNLESS ATTACKED FIRST...!?

AGHH!

DON'T STOP ME!

THIS PLACE IS MY...

MANA, STOP! YOU CAN'T JUST GO THERE ALONE!

?!

MANA!?

!!

MY HOME...!

OGA.

S... SGT.!

WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?

I TOLD YOU TO REST WITH MARIA UNTIL THE RETRIEVAL-PHASE, DIDN'T I?

AH-

.....

AND JUST WHERE THE HELL AM I SUPPOSED TO PULL EXTRA TROOPS FROM?

ALL OUR FORCES HERE ARE IN THE MIDDLE OF BATTLE!

PLEASE SEND TROOPS AT ONCE!

THE POINT MIGHT BE WEAK... BUT THERE'S ONE HERE AT LEAST!

YOU ARE TO REMAIN HERE AT BASE FOR NOW. THAT'S AN ORDER.

BUT OUR HAST ARMY KNOWS BETTER.

YOUR HOMETOWN'S BEEN RELENT-LESSLY BAITED AS OF LATE.

BAITED WITH UNPRECED-ENTED NUMBERS OF ENEMY PLANES.

OGA.

YOU KNEW ABOUT THIS ALL ALONG,

SERGEANT...?

IF YOU ABANDON THIS OPERATION RIGHT NOW,

WHO'LL BE THERE TO RETRIEVE OUR DESCENT TROOPS?

UNDER-STOOD, SIR.

I'LL RETURN TO MY POST.

AFTER WORKING YOUR ASS OFF TO SEND THEM OVER,

ARE YOU JUST GOING TO LEAVE THEM THERE TO DIE!?

SGT...

ハッ

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29

.....

IT WAS AS YOU SAID.

WHAT A PAIN IN THE ASS.

2 MIN.

SHEDD,

HOW LONG WAS I IN THE COORDIN-ATE SPACE FOR?

SO THEY DID TARGET HER HOME THEN...

167

TO RESPOND TO THEIR ATTACK NOW THAT THE CEASE-FIRE HAS BEEN PROKEN.

WE DO HAVE THE AIR FORCE HEADED OVER TO OGA'S HOME,

YOU SIMPLY DID YOUR DUTY OF REPORTING ME.

I'M SURE THEY CAN DRIVE OFF THE SECONDS' PLANES!

R-RIGHT, OF COURSE!

...

DON'T THINK THAT YOU SOLD YOUR FRIEND OUT BY TATTLING OR SOMETHING.

Sgt. Armea.

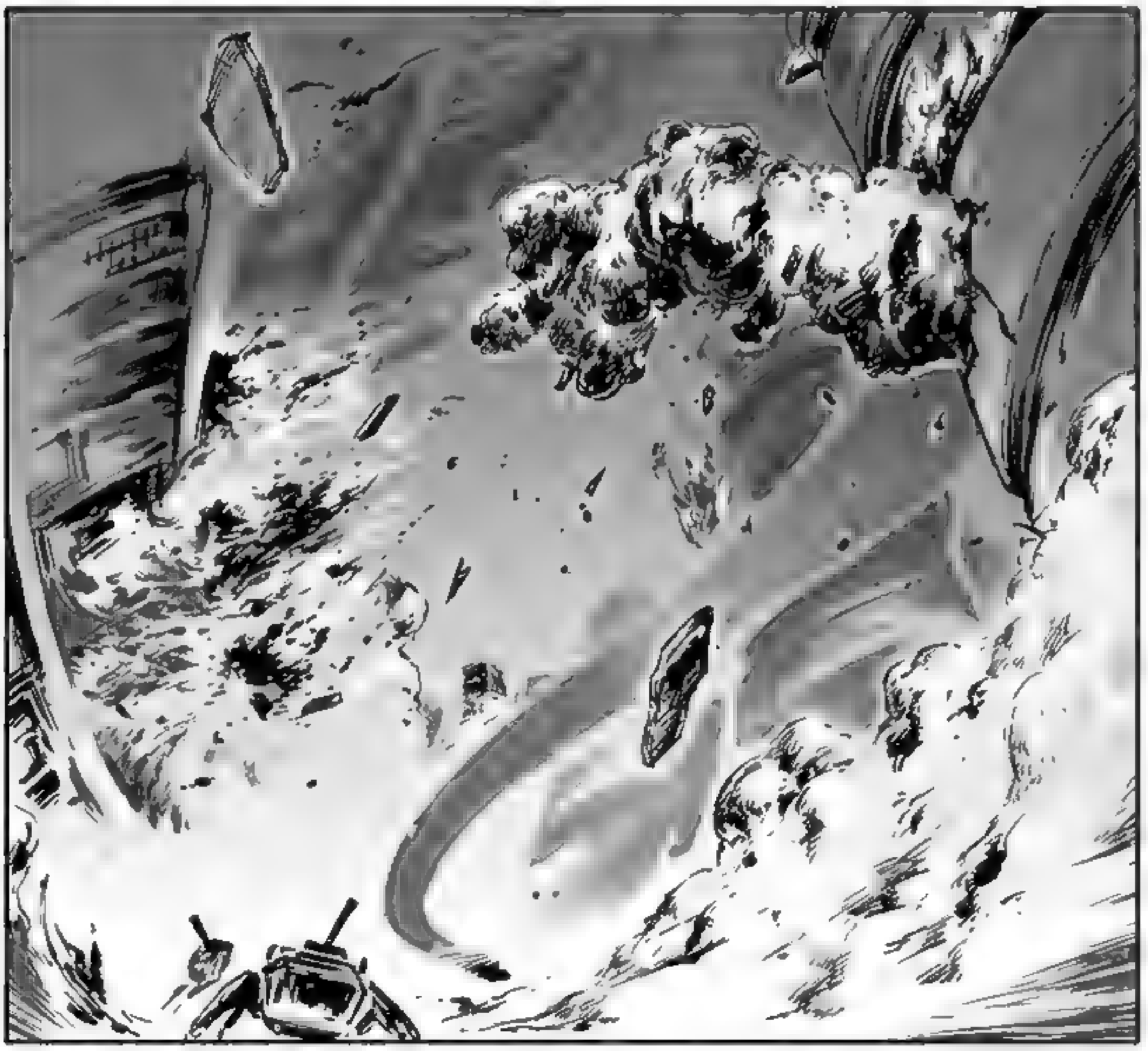
THE AIR FORCE HAS PLENTY OF EXCELLENT PILOTS...!

AND WE'VE LOST HALF OUR AA-GUNS...

THE POINT IS TAKING CONCEN-TRATED FIRE.

CHANGE PLANS TO ORGANIZE ANOTHER AAT AND THEN COME TO TRANSFER CHAMBER #2!

YES, SIR!
SHEDD, COME WITH ME!
ROGER.



32
STEP ON THE PEDAL!

EAT THAT, SECONDS!

BOO YEAH!!

WE'RE STILL WITHIN THE ANTICIPATED AREA!

DON'T WORRY!

WE'RE MANAGING TO KEEP AWAY FROM THE REGROUPING POINT FOR NOW AS PLANNED,

BUT I'M WONDERING IF WE'RE NOT BEING LURED IN...

WHAT IS IT!?

Platoon leader!

AS FOR THE REST OF US, WE HAVE BETTER WOMBS TO RIDE!

IF THERE ARE ANY COWARDS HERE, GO BACK AND CRAWL INSIDE YOUR MOTHERS' WOMBS!

SO LET'S DO OUR JOBS AND MAKE SURE TO CATCH A RIDE ON THE FLIGHT BACK HOME!

CHAPTER 30 : ESCAPE [18 WEEKS]

I'M SENDING YOU THE COORDINATES FOR EACH PLATOON.

CORPORAL MAUN, THIS IS COMM-SQUAD A. I REPEAT, THIS IS COMM-SQUAD A.

HURRY UP BEFORE WE'RE SPOTTED!

BUT I'LL BURN IN THE DATA FROM THOSE THAT ARE LEFT.

3...
2...
1...

A LOT OF OUR RECON-DRONES HAVE BEEN SHOT DOWN SO THESE COORDINATES MIGHT NOT COVER EVERY PLATOON,

CONTINUE GATHERING MORE DATA WITH CAUTION.

Roger.

DATA RECEIVED.

"POINTING" THE DATA TO HQ.

I'LL START,

.....!

THIS LOOKS BAD...

BEEP

BEEP

BEEP

EACH PLATOON IS BEING PULLED FARTHER AND FARTHER AWAY FROM THE TRANSFER-POSSIBLE AREAS.

THIS IS BAD.

4

BUT CONSIDERING THE SHEER SCALE OF TROOPS AND SUPPLIES WE TRANSFERRED, THERE'S A LIMIT TO HOW RANDOM WE CAN MAKE OUR MANEUVERS APPEAR.

WE DID ADD IN SOME FAKES TO MISLEAD THEM,

WERE WE PERHAPS TOO PREDICTABLE IN OUR CHOICE OF DESCENT-POINTS?

IT WOULD SEEM THAT THE ENEMY HAS FIGURED OUT OUR TRANSFER-AREA.

WHAT IS IT?

CAPTAIN WILLIAMS.

!

WITHOUT ADEQUATE FIRE-POWER, IT'LL BE TOO DIFFICULT TO SUPPORT THE PLATOONS IN REGROUPING AT THE POINT AS PLANNED.

THE 5TH ARTILLERY PLATOON HAVE TAKEN FIRE AND ARE NOW SILENT.

WE'LL JUST HAVE TO SEND MORE SUPPORT TO FORCE OUR WAY OPEN!

IF THEY'RE READING OUR PATTERNS, THEN SO BE IT.

THIS IS A BATTLE OF RESOUR-CES.

CAPTAIN WILLIAMS!

MN...

WHAT?

ONE MORE THING, CAPT.

Y-YES, DO SO AT ONCE!

I HAVE AN IDEA!

IF WE'RE TO RETRIEVE OUR SCATTERED PLATOONS, A CHANGE OF LOCATION FOR OUR REGROUPING POINT SEEMS NECESSARY.

SHALL I ORDER OUR RECON TO FIND AN ADEQUATE POINT IN ENEMY TERRITORY?

A SPECIAL TASK FORCE TEAM INCLUDING SPECIALIST OGA.

PLEASE ALLOW SGT. ARMEA TO FORM A TRANSFER TEAM.

FOR WHAT PURPOSE, LT. COLONEL SAURA?

!

THAT SAME NIEBASS INSTINCT HAS BEEN USED BY OUR COLONIST AS WELL.

THE PLACES THAT NIEBASS COLONIZE ARE FEEDING GROUNDS... AND SLEEPING GROUNDS.

OGA IS A COLONIST

THIS APPROACH HAS ITS LIMITS.

HOW-EVER,

BY CREATING A SENSE OF PEACE AND COMFORT TO HER NAVI THROUGH THE USE OF AN ARTIFICIALLY CONSTRUCTED HOME.

SHE'S RECLAIMED NEW POINTS,

THAT IS TO SAY, IT LIMITS HER TO COLONIZING NEW POINTS ONLY AT THE PERIPHERIES OF THE SECONDS' CAPITAL.

YES, I KNOW THAT ALREADY!

YES,

THAT'S WHY WE'RE IN OUR CURRENT MESS!

HOW-EVER...

IT WOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH HER NIEBASS-INSTINCT.

IF A COLONIST'S GOAL WAS TO "ESCAPE,"

8

!!

4"

4"

"

YES, SGT.!

IS EVERYONE HERE!?

IT'LL BE A BUMPY RIDE.

TRANSFER TROOPS!

TIGHTEN YOUR ABDOMINAL SUPPORTERS!

THE TETRA-PODS ARE COMING!

GET IN! QUICK!

AGHHH!

THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN FORCE OUR WAY IN THROUGH THIS!

THIS IS CRAZY!

DIE, YOU FOUR-LEGGED PIECE OF SHIT!

SHIT!

LISTEN UP!

MARIA!

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

THE SECONDS LIKELY FIGURED OUT WHICH AREAS WE CAN'T TRANSFER TO.

MOST OF THE DESCENT TROOPS HAVE CURRENTLY BEEN HERDED INTO THE SEKI PLAZA AT THE CENTER OF THE CAPITAL!

THAT'S WHERE OUR COLONIST COMES IN.

NOW WHILE TRANSFER IS NORMALLY NOT POSSIBLE ONCE WE'RE IN THE PLAZA,

BUT THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT WE WANT. IT'LL ALLOW US TO SAFELY ENTER THE PLAZA.

RIGHT NOW, THE ENEMY THINKS IT'S HERDING OUR VEHICLE INTO THE PLAZA TOO,

13

.....

OGA, IT'LL BE UP TO YOU TO USE YOUR COLONIST POWERS,

AND RETRIEVE ALL THE DESCENT TROOPS TRAPPED THERE!

I CAN'T DO IT, SGT.

THERE'S NO WAY I CAN CONVINCE IT THAT IT'S A "SAFE PLACE."

I DON'T HAVE THE CONFIDENCE TO GET MY NAVI TO DO WHAT I SAY IN THE MIDDLE OF A BATTLEFIELD.

THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO BE ABLE TO ORDER IT AROUND.

JUST CREATE A POINT FROM DEEP INSIDE YOUR HEART.

OGA,

14

THAT WAS BECAUSE IT WAS TO GET YOU TO SAFELY ESCAPE.

REMEMBER HOW YOUR NAVI FIRST APPEARED BEFORE YOU DURING YOUR FIRST BATTLE.

BACK THEN, IT GLADLY SHOWED YOU THE WAY OUT, DID IT NOT?

!?

GO THIS WAY...

THIS WAY...

BACK THEN...

HAVE CONFIDENCE IN YOURSELF.

YOU CAN DO THIS.

HAVE CONFIDENCE, AND UNLEASH YOUR FEARS.

YES, SGT.!

Y...

YEAH... I KNOW...

THAT'S RIGHT!

YEAH, BE MORE CONFIDENT!

YOU CAN DO IT, MANA!

16

I SEE THE PLAZA!

I SEE IT NOW!

Lay down your arms.

CLICK CLICK

Lay down your arms n-

You can be accepted as new citizens of the Sekiou United Nations.

We assure you will not be treated in any way that violates the terms of war

19

20

TRANSFER TROOPS! OUT OF THE VEHICLE!

WE'LL MOVE INTO THE BUILDING!

THEY'RE USING INCENDIARY ROUNDS!

WE'LL BE BURNED TO CRISPS!

RUN!

RUN

THE SECONDS CONSIDER OUR ENTIRE BODIES AS WEAPONS,

SO IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO LAY DOWN OUR ARMS!

AS FOR THE DESCENT TROOPS, LAY DOWN YOUR ARMS AND HEAD TO THE PLAZA.

AS LONG AS YOU TRANSMIT CODE-036 FOR SURRENDER, THEY WON'T ATTACK YOU.

BUT-

DON'T WORRY ABOUT US!

RIGHT ...

WELL, WE'LL HOLD THEM OFF UNTIL YOU'RE INSIDE.

DON'T PUSH YOUR-SELVES.

OGA, COME!

WHAT IS THIS PLACE?

IT'S SO PRETTY...

B-BUT I CAN'T SEE THE LOCATION FROM THE COORDINATE PLACE.

WITHOUT THE PRECISE LOCATION...

TRUST IN OUR RECON'S INTEL!

THE PLAZA'S JUST 110M SOUTHWEST FROM HERE.

START COLONIZ-ING NOW WHILE YOU CAN!

WE'LL BE USING THE COORDIN-ATE SPACE TO ENTER THE PLAZA FROM HERE.

SET UP A DEFENSE PERIMETER AND DON'T LET YOUR GUARDS DOWN!

Y- YES,

SER...

JUST FOCUS ON RECLAIMING A NEW POINT!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT ANYTHING ELSE OR WHAT COMES AFTER.

GEANT...

CASS!
OGA, I'VE BEEN WAITING!

OH, IT'S SO CLOSE BY!

.....

I SET UP AN ANCHOR OVER THERE USING SGT. ARMEA'S ESTIMATES AND MY MAP.

THAT'LL BE YOUR TARGET POINT FOR NOW.

IT'S NICE THAT THE COORDINATE SPACE IS SO QUIET.

NO TETRA-PODS TO WORRY ABOUT SHOOTING ME IN HERE.

I SHOULD BE ABLE TO QUIC-

PULL

WHERE ARE WE?

THE REAL KEN WOULD RIGHT NOW BE...

DON'T WORRY, NAVI.

MANA?

JUST COME WITH ME.

IT'S TAKEN ON THE SHAPE OF KEN...

THERE'S A BEAUTIFUL VINEYARD OVER TH-

LOOK,

EVERY-THING'S ALRIGHT.

YOU'RE LYING.

27

THAT MUST BE A SCARY PLACE THEN.

I DON'T WANNA GO!

YOU'RE SCARED RIGHT NOW, AREN'T YOU?

13

I'M NOT-

IT'S SCARY! IT'S SCARY!

I DON'T WANNA!

YOU HAVE TO COME.

11"

28

NAVI!

5

4"

ARE YOU OKAY WITH ME AND EVERYONE DYING?

THEN I DON'T NEED YOU!

IF YOU'RE GONNA BE THAT STUBBORN...

I HAVE NO USE FOR YOU.

NO, WAIT, MANA!

WAIT!

DON'T LEAVE ME BEHIND!

GOOD, IT'S FINE AS LONG AS YOU UNDERSTAND.

31

UNLEASH MY FEAR...
?!
I'VE REACHED THE ANCHOR, SERGEANT.
PLEASE PREPARE TO FLY AT ONCE.
YES.
HERE?

I HAVE TO UNLEASH THAT FEAR...
IN THE REAL SPACE, THERE ARE TETRAPODS SURROUNDING ME.
MANA!

32

I NEED TO UNLEASH MORE FEAR.

FEAR...

IT WON'T COME OUT.

THE VOICE I NEED TO RECLAIM A NEW POINT WON'T COME OUT AT ALL...

EVEN MORE FEAR...

MANA?

EVERYONE IS...

BURNING!

MOM, TOO!

I'M BURNING!

I'M BURNING!

I DON'T LIKE IT HERE!

MANA!

MANA!

MANAAAA!

35

POINT ESTAB-LISHED!

!

36

IT'S TIME TO RETRIEVE THE DESCENT CORPS!

SET UP FOR-MATION 0-7 AND GRAB ANCHOR TO ENTER THE PLAZA!

AGHH

GRAB

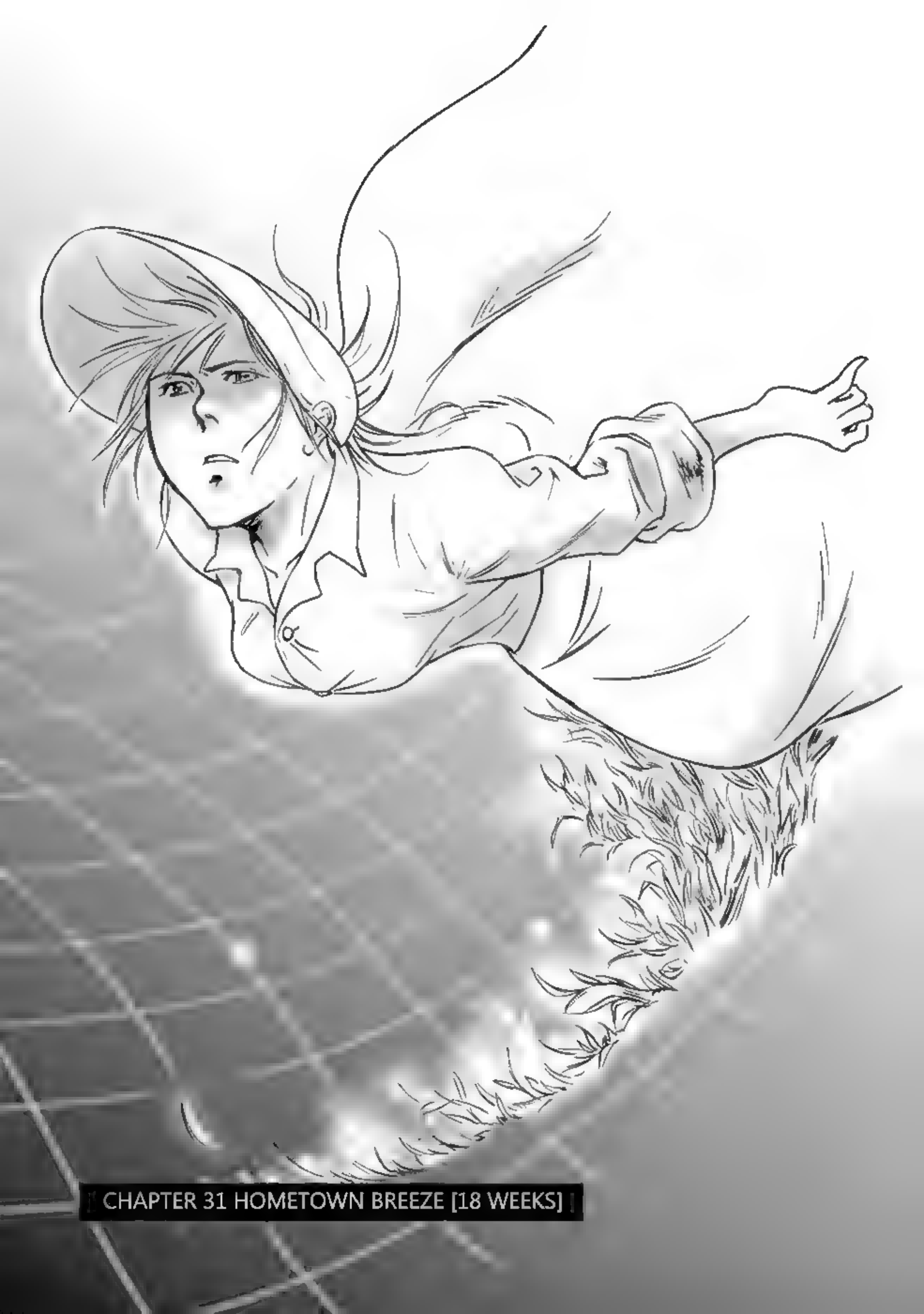
THE TETRAPOD!

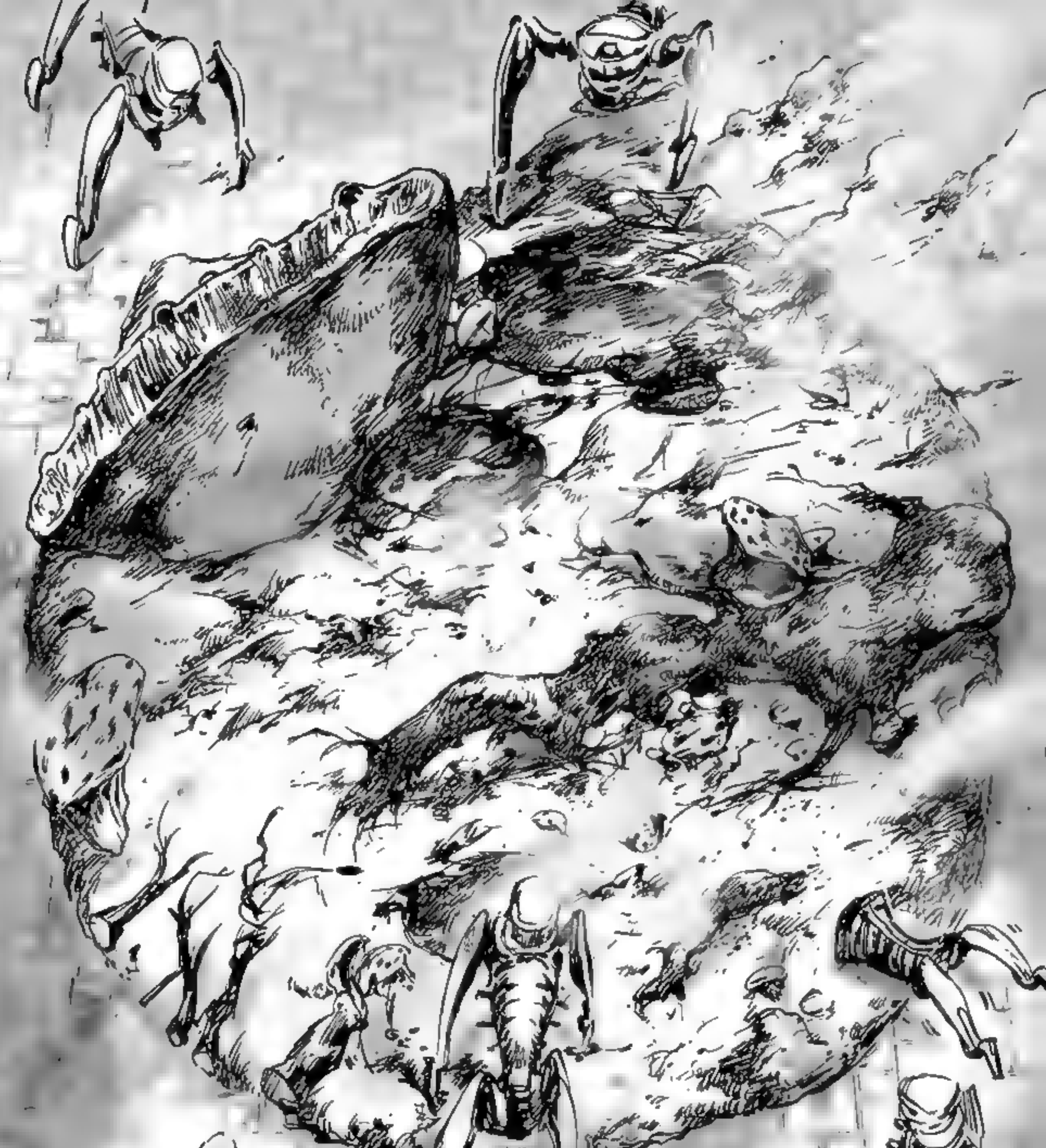
HURRY!

DO SOMETHING!

WELL DONE, OGA.

LET'S GO BACK NOW.


CHAPTER 31 HOMETOWN BREEZE [18 WEEKS]



YOU IDIOT, GIVE ME YOUR RIFLE!

THE TETRA-POD CAME ALONG WITH US!

SGT. ARMEA!

WATCH OUT BELOW TOO.

KRK

KRRKKK

IS IT DESTR-OYED?

YOU GUYS ARE A PAIN IN THE ASS AS ALWAYS.

AND YOU TRANSFER CORPS ARE AS LATE AS ALWAYS!

MARIA!?

THAT WAS SCARY...

MEDIC! WE NEED A MEDIC HERE!

MARIA, HANG IN THERE!

6

DON'T LET HER BITE HER TONGUE! PUT SOMETHING IN HER MOUTH!

HER HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE MUST HAVE TRIGGERED A SEIZURE.

Something?

AGHHH!

OVER HERE!

MARIA...

ALL YOU HAD TO DO WAS WAIT A FEW MORE SECONDS WITHIN...

SHIT, HE'S LOST HIS FOOT!

THERE'S STILL A FEW OTHER POINTS WE'VE YET TO RETRIEVE DESCENT CORPS' TROOPS FROM.

MORE IMPORT-ANTLY, THOSE OF YOU WHO CAN MOVE, COME WITH ME!

...PAY NO MIND

RRRGHHH

LOSING A LIMB IS A MEDAL OF HONOUR FOR THE DESCENT CORPS.

!

Y-YES, SGT...

WHAT ABOUT MANA?

MAMA...

8

LET'S GO.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT OGA FOR NOW.

I'VE GOTTA GO...

GO SAVE THEM...

I HAVE TO...

9

A neutral station of the Pan-Human Association

10

WE TRULY DO PITY,

THE PEOPLE OF HAST.

HOW UNFORTU-NATE.

NOW JUST TAKE BACK YOUR DAMNED ARMISTICE DECLARATION ALREADY.

YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO BE CONCERNED FOR OUR SUFFERING.

YOU JUST TOSSED AWAY A PERFECTLY GOOD CHANCE TO SURRENDER.

AND THANKS TO THAT, YOU'VE MERELY EXTENDED THE ABJECT SUFFERING OF YOUR PEOPLE.

FLASH

.....

THE REQUEST TO WITHDRAW OUR ARMISTICE APPLICATION HAS BEEN SENT.

ONE MOMENT, AMBASSADOR.

I'LL EXCUSE MYSELF NOW.

The Pan-Human Migrant Association has received and approved the withdrawal of the armistice declaration application.

As the prerequisite condition of a capital city has not been established, the immigration of your main body of migrants will be delayed.

DO YOU REALIZE WHAT THAT MEANS...?

YOU MAY HAVE DESTROYED OUR CITY BUT WE WILL OF COURSE SIMPLY REBUILD.

RESOURCES WHICH ARE, NEEDLESS TO SAY, LIMITED IN NATURE.

WE WILL REBUILD USING AS MUCH OF THE PLANET'S MATERIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES AS NEEDED.

.....

IN DUE TIME, YOUR STUBBORN RESISTANCE WILL SURELY BE SCORNED BY THE OTHER MIGRANT NATIONS THAT CAME TO SEKIOU AT THE SAME TIME AS YOU.

12

TIME IS ON OUR SIDE.

AMBASSA-DOR!

THERE WILL BE NO "FREEING."

THAT'S ABSURD.

THEY'LL ONLY HAVE WORDS OF THANKS TO GIVE WHEN HAST FREES THEM FROM YOUR TYRANNY.

AS WE SPEAK, THE MAIN BODY OF OUR MIGRANTS ARE IN SUSPENDED ANIMATION AT CRYOGENIC TEMPER-ATURES,

PRESERVING THEIR BODIES PERFECTLY WITHOUT ANY DEGRADATION OF GENETIC INFORMATION.

AS SUCH, THE MAIN BODY OF OUR GROUP IS IN NO HURRY AT ALL.

WITH FOLLOWING THE PAN-HUMAN ASSOCIATION'S RULES SO AS TO NOT LOSE LEGAL MIGRANT STATUS.

RATHER, THEY ARE MORE CONCERNED,

SPEED IS NOT WHAT THEY DESIRE.

.....

PEACE...?

AND ABOVE ALL,

THEY WISH FOR PEACE ON THEIR NEW PLANET AS WELL.

IT'S FINE.

BEEP

THAT'S ANOTHER INFRACTION OF VERBAL ABUSE AND VIOLENCE, BRINGING YOU TO A TOTAL OF 43 INFRACTIONS.

A FEW MORE INFRACTIONS AND YOU WILL BE KICKED OFF THE STATION, AMBASSADOR.

DON'T YOU DARE UTTER THAT WORD WITH THAT MOUTH OF YOURS,

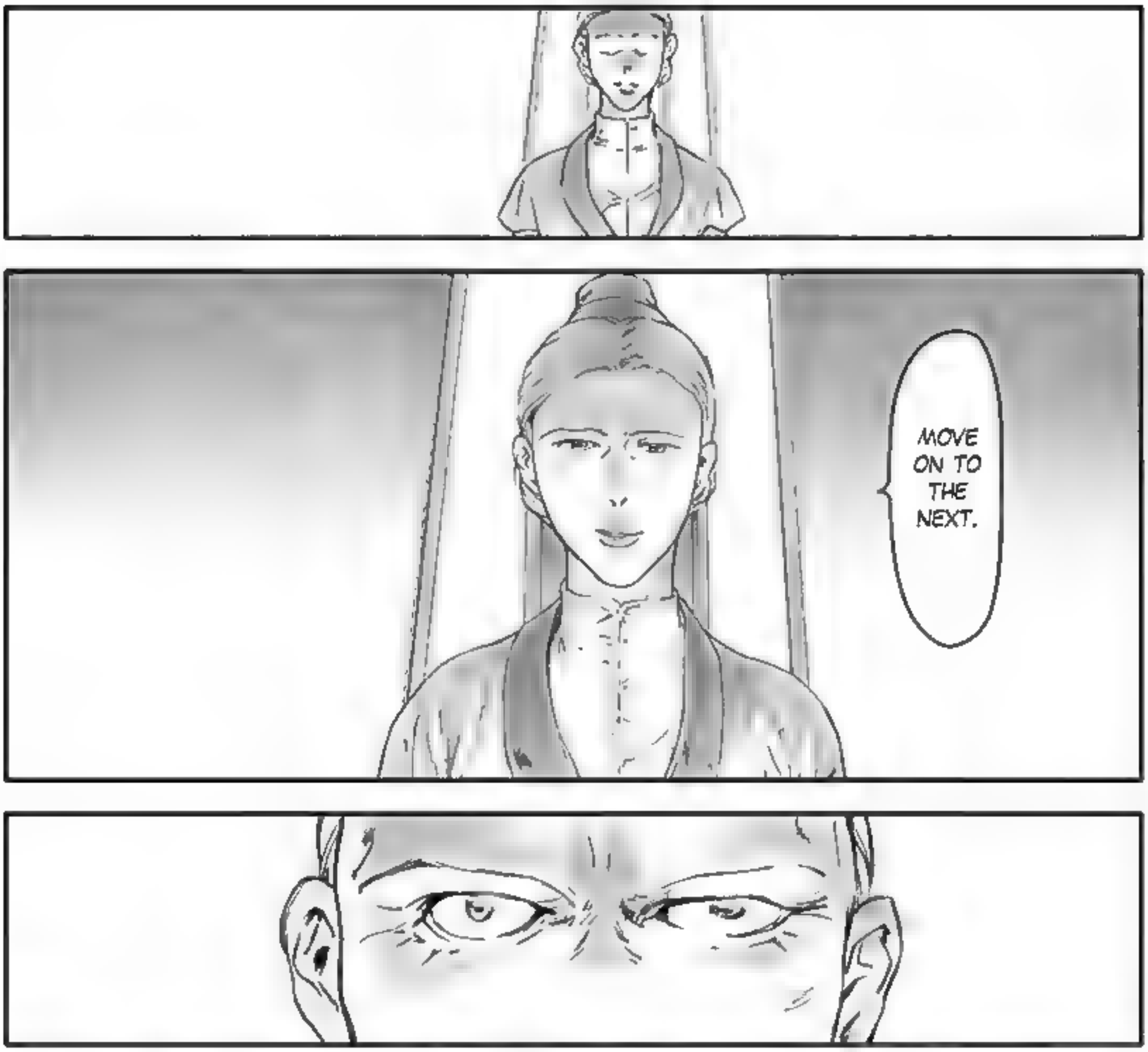
EVER AGAIN!

WHAT WILL YOU DO,

IF EVEN THOSE RUN OUT?

LIMITED MATERIAL AND HUMAN,

RESOUR-CES...


MOVE ON TO THE NEXT.
MOVE ON TO THE NEXT.

DON'T PUSH YOURSELF

OH NO, YOU WON'T!

I'LL BE BACK ON DUTY SOON.

TRY TO FEEL BETTER WITH THAT PHOTO OF YOUR DAUGHTER NOW.

THANKS.

SHE'S RIGHT, YOU SHOULDN'T PUSH YOURSELF...

BUT...

BUT WE'RE MUCH SHORTER ON HANDS THESE DAYS...

!?

THANK GOD.

.....

HAD IT BEEN 5 YEARS AGO, YOU LIKELY WOULD NOT HAVE EVEN QUALIFIED FOR CONSCRIPTION.

IT SEEMS YOU HAVE A MEDICAL HISTORY OF SEVERE PREGNANCY-INDUCED HYPERTENSION.

.....

IF IT WEREN'T FOR THAT,

I'D HAVE NO WAY TO EVER GET MY BABY BACK AGAIN...

I'M REAL SORRY ABOUT UMM...

UMM,

MANA

I SUPPOSE YOU'VE ALL SEEN IT BY NOW THEN.

OH,

DON'T MAKE THAT FACE AS IF YOU WERE AT A FUNERAL!

COME ON NOW.

THE REST SEEMS TO HAVE SURRENDERED ALIVE...

ACCORDING TO THE SECONDS, THEY ONLY SHOT DOWN THOSE WHO ATTACKED...

We didn't know what to say!

It's quite a relief...

They could not be more excited to start new peaceful lives in their new nation.

This has been P.H.A. News.

Its inhabitants will all be gladly welcomed as new citizens.

A village on the Eastern shore which had been suffering under tyranny has been liberated at last today.

*PHA (Pan-Human Association)

IT'S GOOD TO SEE THEY'RE SAFE AT LEAST...

AND NICO...

TARBA FROM THE WINERY,

THAT WAS THE PROPAGANDA PIECE THEY AIRED. YOU UNDERSTAND, DON'T YOU?

YES.

NAME ANY PEOPLE YOU RECOGNIZE IN THE BROADCAST SO THAT WE MAY HOPE TO RESCUE THEM IN THE FUTURE.

ONE MORE TIME...

ONE MORE TIME.

PLEASE PLAY IT ONE MORE TIME.

ONE MORE TIME...

BUT I'M SURE THEY'RE ALIVE.

BECAUSE I BELIEVE IN THEIR WELL-BEING!

WELL,

I WASN'T ABLE TO SPOT MY MOTHER AND YOUNGER BROTHER ON THE NEWS BROADCAST,

DR. DIAMOND..

I FINALLY CAUGHT YOU, MANA OGA!

HOW MANY TIMES ARE YOU PLANNING TO SKIP COUNSELING SESSIONS!?

MANA

ド"

ド"

ド"

!

PREVIOUSLY, DIDN'T YOU DOCTORS TRY TO RESTRICT ME,

TO JUST 8 HOURS A DAY IN THE COORDINATE SPACE...?

は?

ﾌﾞﾝ

I WON'T LET YOU ENTER THE COORDINATE SPACE!

UNTIL YOUR PTSD COUNSEL-ING IS DONE,

はあ

はあ

!

BUT A DOCTOR'S ORDERS ARE EASILY DISREGARDED BY THE PRESSING DEMANDS OF WAR.

BATTLE RESULTS ARE ALL THAT REALLY MATTERS IN THE END.

IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I'M QUITE BUSY, DOCTOR.

COUNSELING IS NOTHING BUT A WASTE OF TIME.

AHH!

YOU'RE WRONG!

COME BACK THIS INSTANT!

SPECIALIST OGA!

MANA!

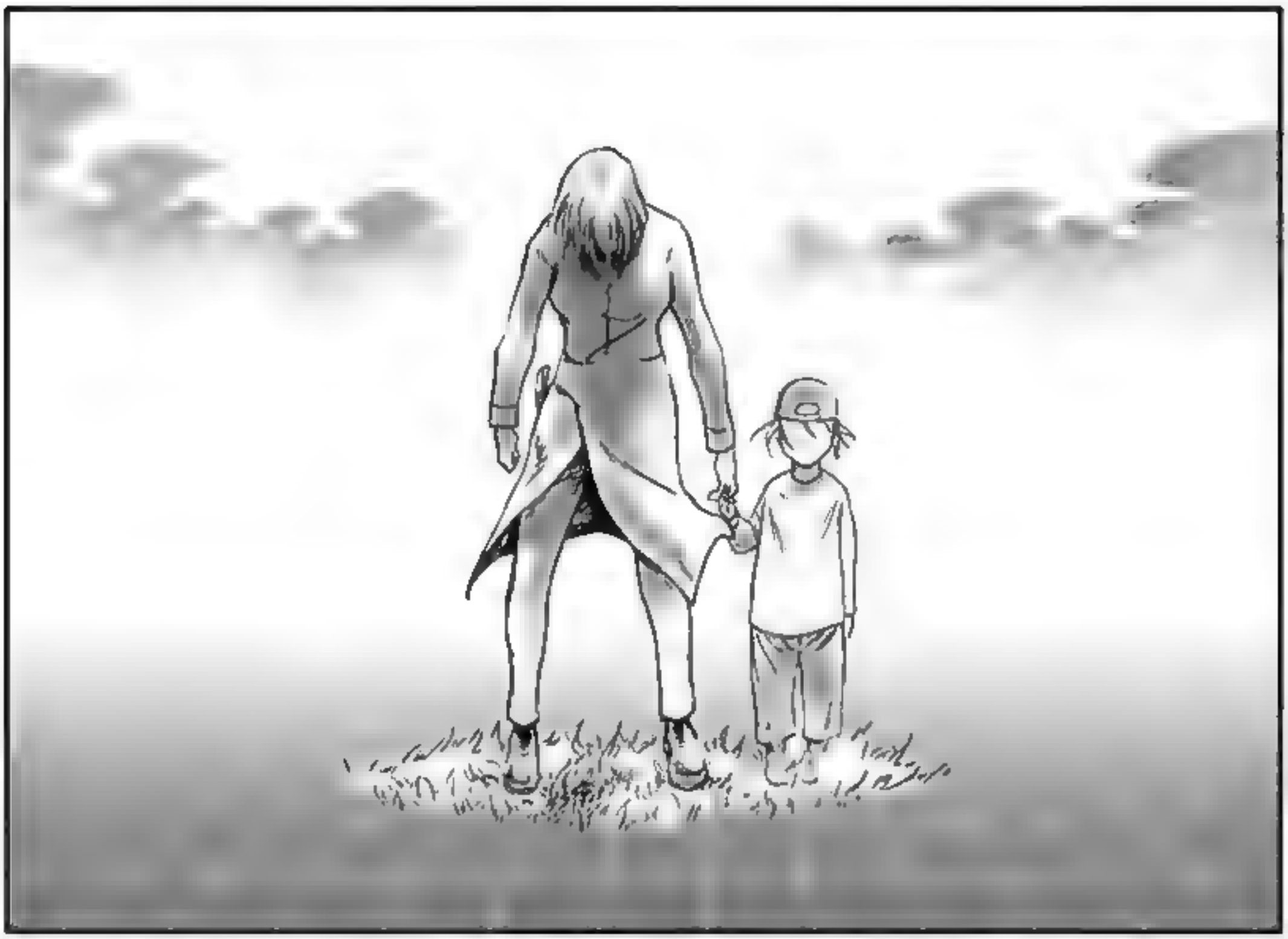
I CAN'T BLAME HER.

I REMEMBER HOW MUCH I LASHED OUT BACK WHEN MY HOMETOWN BURNED DOWN.

I ABSOLUTELY REFUSE TO GIVE YOU PERMISSION!

YOU HEAR ME!?

...



OGA WAS SOON
GIVEN PERMISSION
TO ENTER THE
COORDINATE SPACE

HER DUTY WAS, HOWEVER,

RECLAIMING ANY POINTS NEAR HER HOMETOWN WAS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN

ONLY TO RECLAIM NEW POINTS IN SECONDS' TERRITORY THAT COULD BE USED FOR OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS.

IT NEVERTHELESS GAVE RISE TO A DEEP RIFT IN HER MENTAL STATE

WHILE THIS WAS A MERE MATTER OF PRIORITIZING OUR MILITARY CONCERNS,

THAT VISUALIZING HER HOMETOWN HAD BEEN INDISPENSIBLE FOR HER RECLAMATION ROUTINES

THIS WAS SIMPLY DUE TO THE FACT,

ALL THE WHILE AS HER REAL YOUNGER BROTHER WAS UNABLE TO BE CONFIRMED EITHER LIVING OR DEAD SINCE HER HOMETOWN BURNED DOWN

TO LEAD AROUND HER NAVI, NOW IN THE FORM OF HER YOUNGER BROTHER, SHE HAD TO CONTINUALLY OFFER IT VISIONS OF A SAFE SANCTUARY.

SHE DID SO IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT IT WAS MORE THAN LIKELY HER ACTUAL FAMILY MEMBERS WERE AMONG THOSE WHO WERE BURNED ALIVE THAT DAY

DEEP INSIDE HER MIND, SHE KNEW HER HOMETOWN WAS NO LONGER A SAFE PLACE.

AND ONCE HER NAVI BEGAN TO PICK UP ON THAT ANXIETY, HER RECLAMATION EFFORTS BEGAN TO FAIL MORE AND MORE

SHE RESORTED TO EVEN STRONGER IMAGES

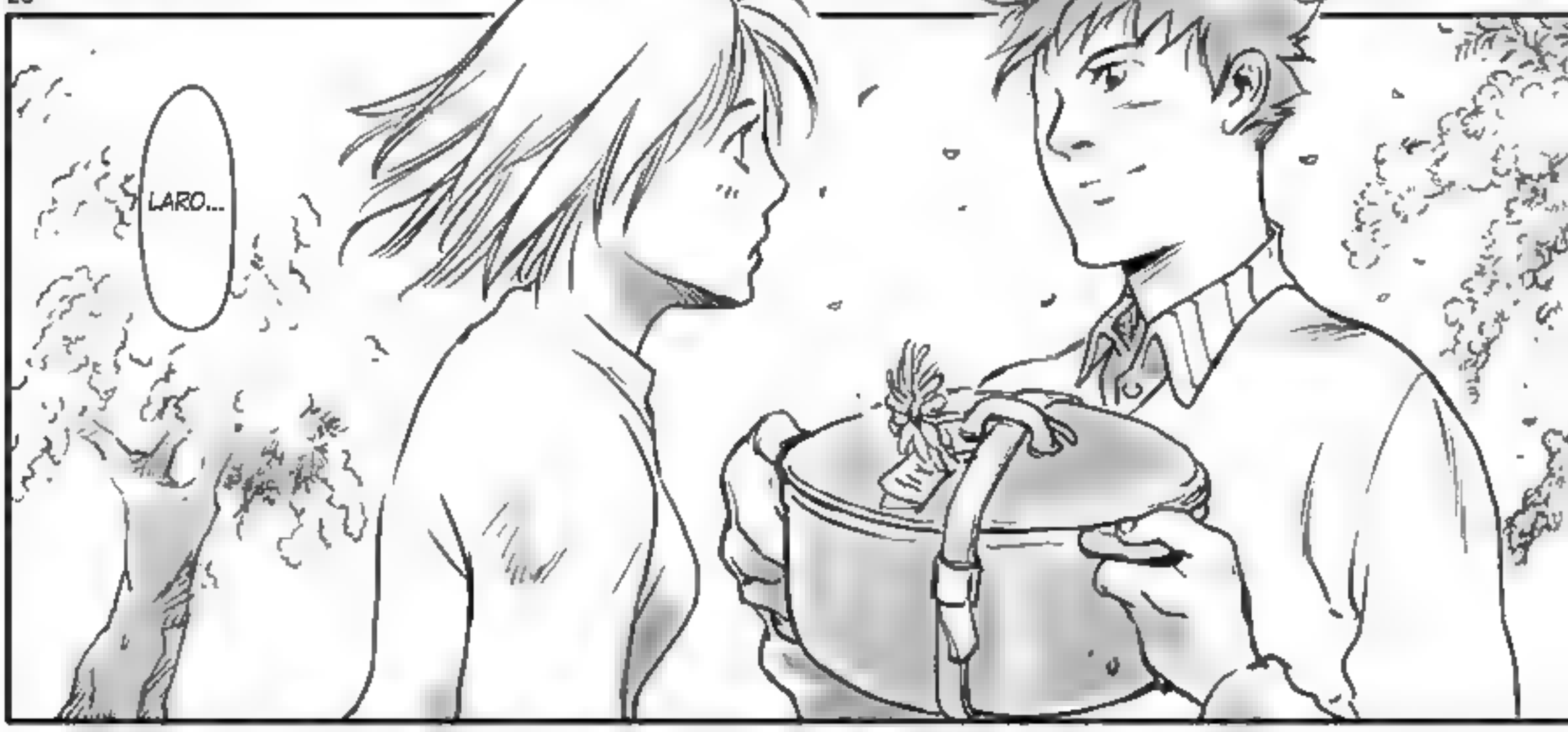
THUS SHE WAS LEFT WITH ONLY ONE OTHER OPTION IN ORDER TO CONTINUE HER RECLAMATION DUTIES

AND REALISTIC

IMAGES THAT WERE FAR MORE VIVID.

MOM!

BROTHER...
DAD.


LARO...

MANA...

30

YOU SHOULD AT LEAST EAT SOMETHING.

MANA.

IT WAS PRIVATE OGA FROM HER GROUP WHO LAST CONTACTED OGA IN THE COORDINATE SPACE

I'VE GOT SOME COOKIES AND GRAPE JUICE.

THEY'RE ALL HOME-MADE.

I AM EATING THOUGH, CAN'T YOU SEE?

WOULD YOU LIKE SOME, KEI?

.....

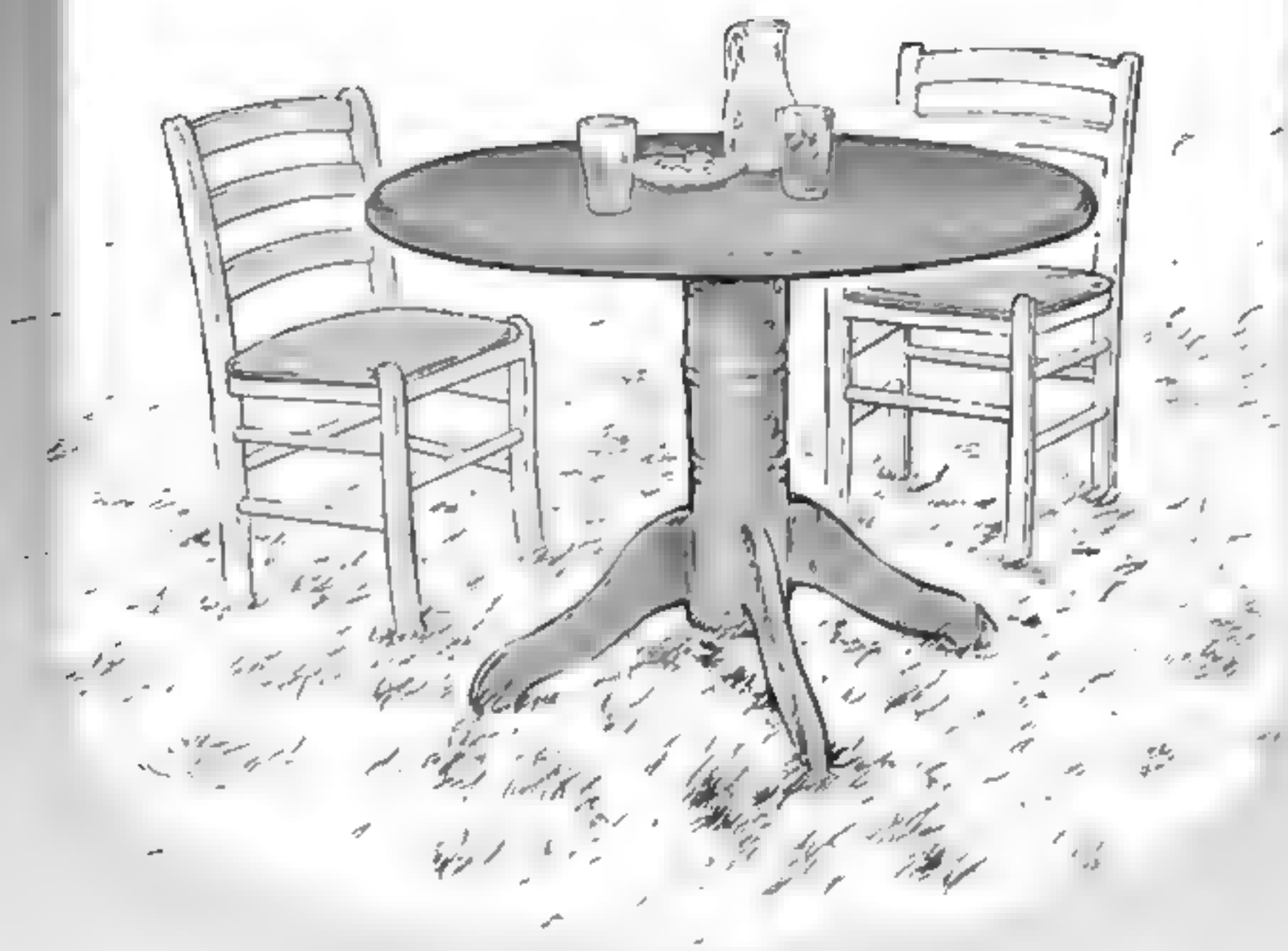
YOU'RE WRONG, MANA.

THE NEXT DAY.

THE REAL YOU HASN'T EATEN ANYTHING FOR 3 DAYS.

IF YOU KEEP THIS UP, YOU'LL-

OGA DISAPPEARED FROM
THE COORDINATE SPACE.



GOOD WORK.

...I SEE.

THAT CONCLUDES MY REPORT.

IS THAT ALL?

?

DON'T TRY TO PRETEND AS IF YOU'RE BLAMELESS.

YOU DISAPPOINT ME.

!?

WHAT COULD I HAVE DONE OTHER THAN-

THAT'S ENOUGH, SGT.

WE JUST LOST OUR ONLY COLONIST!

WATCH YOUR MOUTH, SGT. ARMEA!

ALL BECAUSE YOU PUSHED HER TO WORK WHILE IGNORING ALL THE WARNINGS FROM DR. HERMAN, DR. DIAMOND, AND ME!

SPECIALIST OGA WILL BE MOVED TO A HOSPITAL WARD WHILE SHE REMAINS IN HER COMATOSE STATE.

SHE NEEDS TO BE GIVEN SERIOUS NOURISHMENT AT ONCE.

WHEN TRANSFER-SOLDIERS DON'T EAT, THE NUTRIENTS IN THEIR BODIES ARE QUICKLY ABSORBED BY THEIR TRANSFER ORGANS.

THAT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.

WHAT!? TO WHERE!?

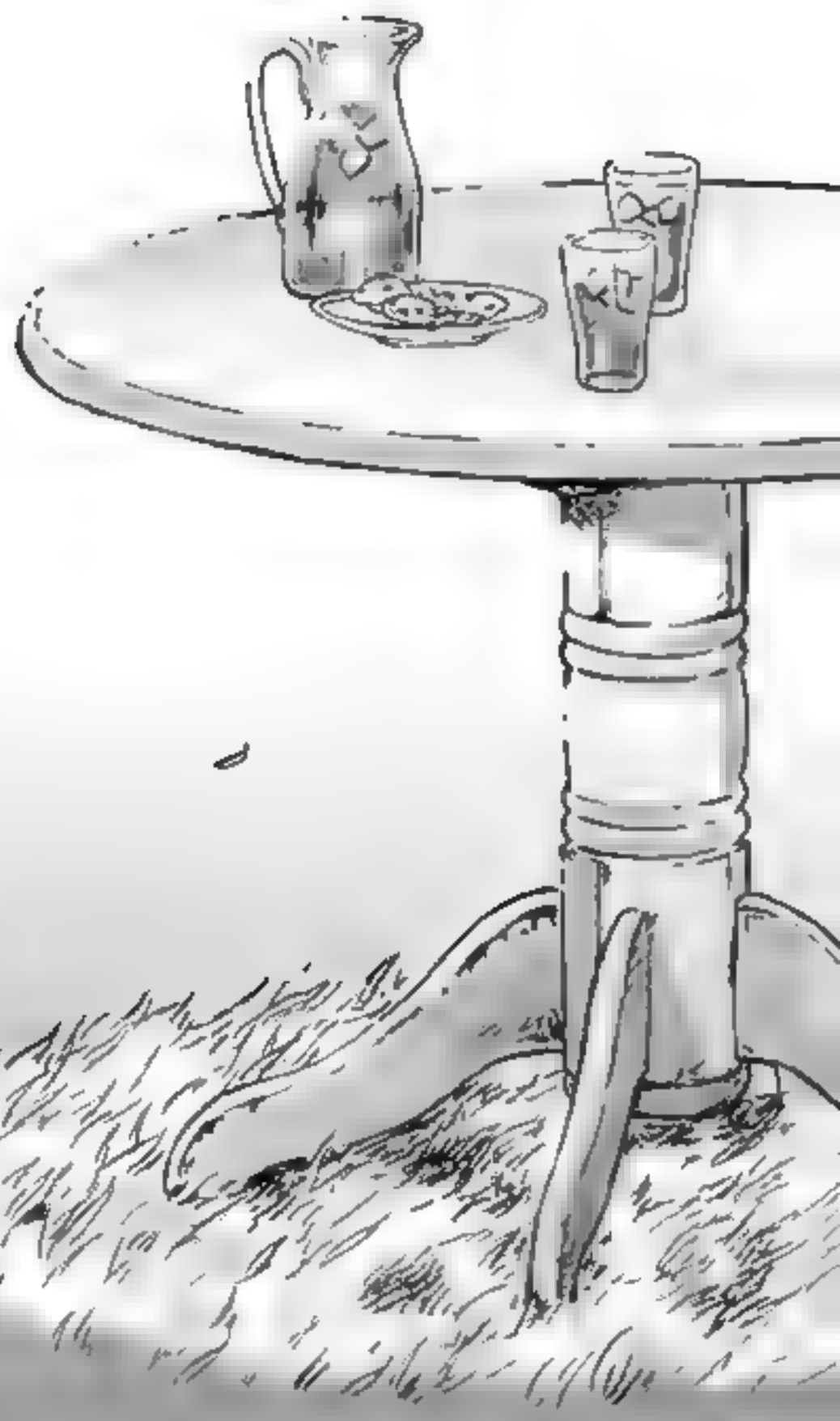
I'M MOVING OGA OUT FROM YOUR UNIT TO ANOTHER UNIT.

IN ANY CASE, STARTING FROM TODAY,

NOW DISMISS YOURSELF.

YOUR WORK WITH HER UNTIL NOW IS APPRECIATED, SGT ARMEA.

CHAPTER 32 SETTING OFF ON A JOURNEY [19 WEEKS]



YOU SEEM UNWELL, MANA OGA.

NURSE!

YOU WERE ARRESTED FOR BREAKING THE MILITARY REGULA-TIONS... WHERE'VE YOU BEEN ALL THIS TIME?

AND IT'S NOT JUST YOU.

ALL YOU GIRLS UNDER ARMEA'S COMMAND ARE SO PITIFUL.

YOU POOR THING...

YOU'VE ALL BEEN TORN APART...

PEOPLE CANNOT GO ON LIVING,

ONCE THEY'VE BEEN TORN APART.

TORN...?

YES.

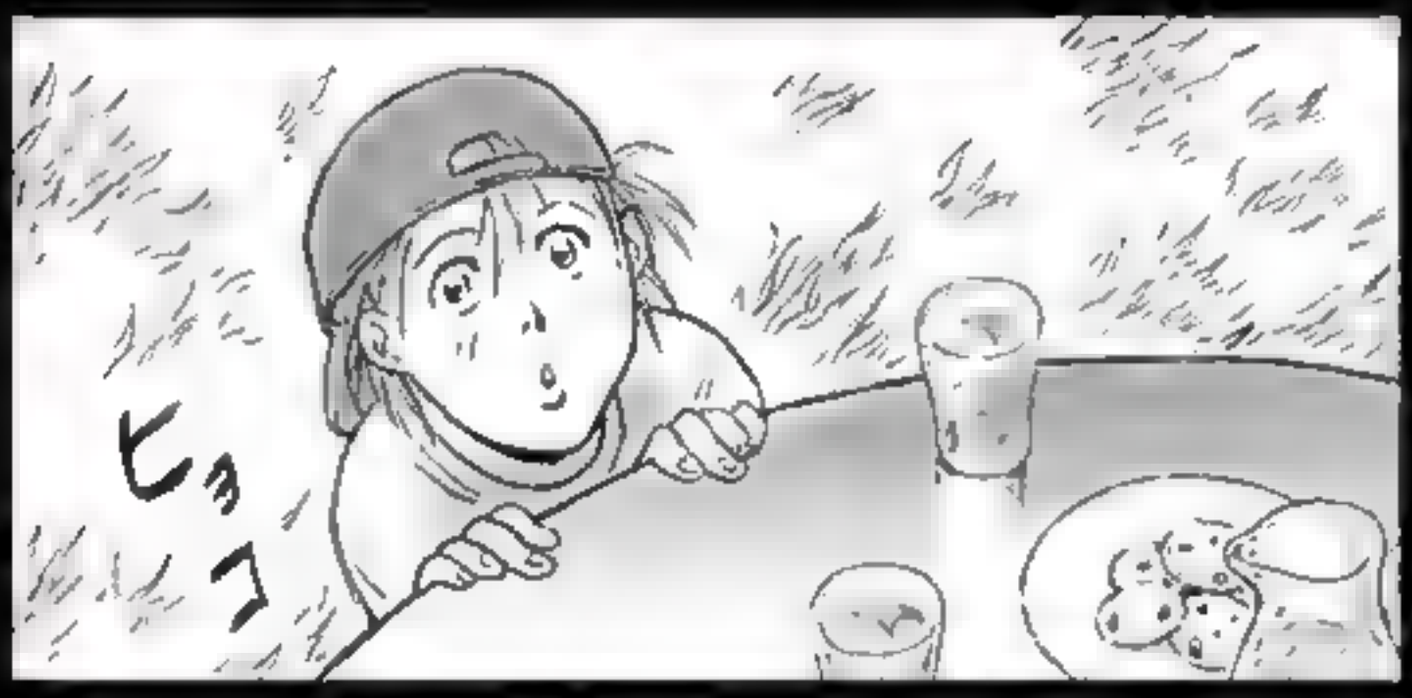
COME WITH ME AND YOU'LL BE MADE WHOLE AGAIN.

YOU'LL FEEL MUCH BETTER.

ﾅﾆｯﾍﾟ

I'LL BE... MADE WHOLE AGAIN...?

YES, BACK INTO ONE PIECE.



ALRIGHT

CAN I COME TOO?

OF COURSE!

7オン
7オン

SS...

SSS–

SS–

GIMME ANOTHER GLASS, MASTER!

8

YOUR TAB'S RUNNING AWFULLY HIGH.

UNTIL YOUR MOTHER GETS BACK, I–

HOW MUCH DO I OWE YOU?

SORRY ABOUT HIM, MASTER.

AHH!

……

LET'S GO, RED-HAIR.

TRY TO COME A LITTLE SOONER NEXT TIME.

UH HUH.

DUNNO.

WHERE!?

!

WHEREVER OGA IS, I GUESS.

OGA!? I KNOW HER!

I'M FRIENDS WITH HER NAVI!

AHH!

UMM, T-THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A SECRET,

BUT MANA'S NAVI HASN'T BEEN COMING BY TO PLAY AT ALL!

AND-

GET IN.

YES, SO JUST GET IN.
REALLY? CAN I?

WHAT?
HEY.

ぼよ
ぼよ
ぼよ

CAN I CALL YOU "MOMMY?"

NO.

ゴキ

ゴキッ

ドカッ

13

OKAY...

ケ

ケ

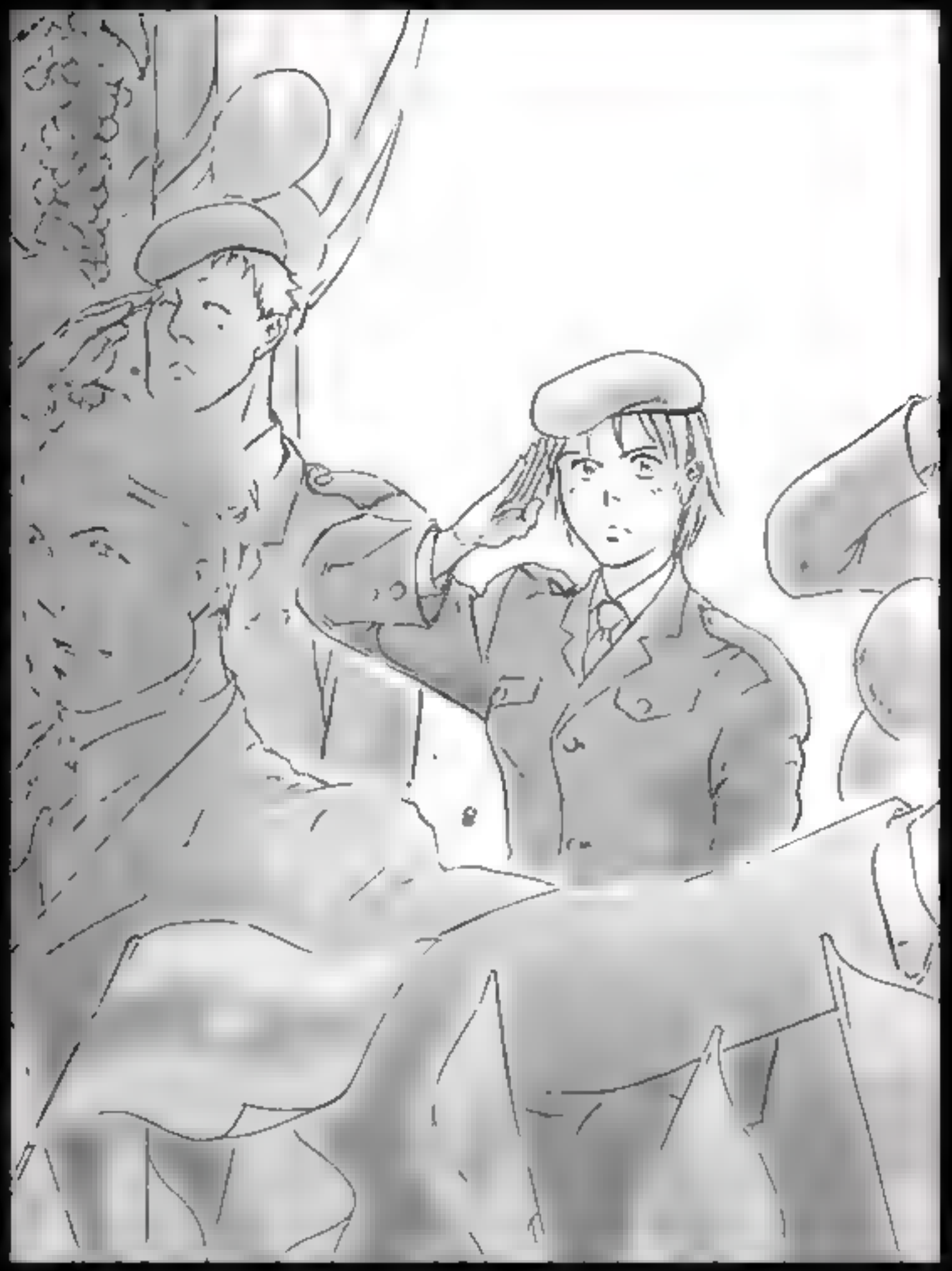
ケ"

ケ

Translated by Hox
Edited by HappyScans!

W O M B S — VOLUME 4 — END

特別転送隊派遣料マナール



Mana Oga

I haven't the faintest doubt that my village put in the utmost care and sincerity in holding the send-off party for me. Nevertheless, the fact is that my send-off party was a much more muted affair compared to that for my older brother. There was no musical band performing at my send-off. All the band members had already been conscripted, after all. Dan from the winery who performed a beautiful solo at the previous send-off had died in battle at some virgin forest, and his brass trumpet was all that was left of him.

My older brother had left me the vineyard when he left. The vineyard that our father left him. The vineyard he put so much effort to take care of. Unlike his send-off, it was quiet when he returned for it was merely a video-letter that came back.

I once heard my mother whisper in the corner of the vineyard where she thought she wouldn't be heard, "I wonder how long this war will last...?"

"Until the war is won." The image of my mother hanging down her head upon unexpectedly hearing my reply is awfully vivid in my mind.

I cut my hands once while pulling out the oil grass the unrelenting Seconds scattered on my family's vineyard. Seeing the blood run on my hands, I angrily swore. I was sick and tired of it all. If there's something I could do to change all this, I'd gladly do it. I'll win this war and end it. That's what I thought as I stood on the platform at my send-off party, and that's what I think now on the battlefield. It's the only way I think now, all the more so when I'm experiencing tough times. I'll win this war and end it.

特別転送隊派遣料アルバイト

35

Sergeant Armea

I felt it for an instant. However, it was drowned away as the intense bombing raids resumed once more.

"Retrieval Transport" is always a walk on the tightrope. Transfer soldiers must always be aware of the points' locations and confirm their deployment locations, lest be prone to becoming easily scattered. Thus we're trained to practice the various formations that circumstances may require us to take in trying to retrieve troops in the shortest time possible without leaving anyone behind. However, when it comes to the real thing, the clean simulations we practice are of limited use, as unpredictable accidents routinely throw us off. Many a time have we had no choice but to cut losses and retrieve only as many as we could at that time.

It was the same this time. The battle turned worse than anticipated, and the troops were late to the planned regrouping point. This is what happens when battle plans are drawn thinking of the best possible outcomes rather than the worst. Many of our troops have been killed by such blunders from the chain of command over the past 10 years.

Corporal Maun relayed my message back to base that retrieval would be delayed. The transfer chambers were also being used for logistical action so we needed to wait for them to finish up first. As I waited with the burning desire to enter coordinate space as soon as possible, I suddenly became aware of my defenselessness. Was it because of the niebass or the inexperienced troops? Perhaps it was both.

However, the feeling was quickly drowned out by the sounds of bombing raids resuming once more. I need to focus on the retrieval. I have to return. Return with the bullet-ridden corpses of the transfer troops I trained myself.

Kei Shiota

"Time's up. Come back tomorrow."

"That can't be! I still have 3 minutes left!"

And so I waste another 30 seconds arguing with Dorothy at the window-counter. The book I requested for recreational reading was supposed to arrive today. Slowly, she types in my military ID number. 2 minutes left.

This is all because Cass dragged me to that stress-relief party. That's not to say I was completely disinterested, but goodness, I've never seen such a thing! Dancing naked men? I can imagine how my mother would have yelled at me were she still alive...

At last, Dorothy retrieves my book. "Looks like a pretty difficult book. Maybe you ought to relax on your time off, no?"

"I'm fine, so just hurry up and process the delivery!"

1 more minute left. It was the textbook for the university class I'd only managed to attend a few lectures of.

Sound and Wave Motion.

Upon learning that I would leave for military service, my professor played for me a sample symphony until the end. I clutch the book tightly to my chest while trying to recall those memories, but it's the erotic dance music from the show that plays in my head. I curse Cass' name again.

特別転送隊許可証

Shaydine Orlant

I close the canopy, check all the meters and gauges, and enter the runway. As soon as I take off, another practice aircraft is already on the runway to take off. Just as we practiced countless times, our three planes form up a V and fly with the virgin forest to our Northwest. My hand starts to sweat from nervousness. I can see the moon in between the clouds. Its brightness robs my attention for an instant before a loud alert signal beeps to let me know that an instructor's plane is lying in wait at high altitude. I'm alerted that Misha's plane #2 has been shot down. I take immediate evasive action but the instructor's plane is relentlessly on my tail. I attempt various rolls, rapid ascents and descents but they're to little avail. Feelings of bitter frustration and regret begin to well up inside me.

I had plenty of flying time. I had plenty of combat training. And yet just 2 days before my final test for the Reserve Army Air Corps, I had received a letter of summons to the Transfer Corps. Why? Wasn't that something anybody with a womb could do? Then, why pick me? Immunocompatibility? I couldn't care less what that means!

My plane is hit with a few virtual rounds but I manage to return to base alive. The instructor informs me that I've passed. "I hope your training here will prove useful in your future. I bid you success."

While I return the expected words of thanks to him, the expression on my face then must have been one of frustrated disappointment.

It would be quite some time before I learned to take pride in my duty as a transfer soldier.

特別転送隊資料ファイル

Catherine May

"Why? This can't be. You already served once. Could this be a mistake? If not, we'll have no choice but to close our shop."

"It can't be helped. The war's not over yet, after all."

A letter had arrived informing my husband of his second tour of duty. We had been together only after he returned from his first tour of duty, so it was my first time seeing that letter as his wife.

"I'm more worried about you, Cass," he says with a look of deep concern towards me.

Unable to endure his look, I avert my gaze. "Haha, I'll be fine. There's no way they'd send me into actual battle. After all, I couldn't even conceive your ch..." My heart suddenly tightens and I'm unable to finish my sentence.

The strong, burly arm he cooks with now caresses my shoulder while he tries to find the right words to say. "We'll open the restaurant again when I come back. Once the war ends, we'll be able to get our hands on some better ingredients and make a decent meal for a change. Let's make a great restaurant together, okay?"

I think of lightening the mood by joking, "Please don't raise your own death-flag like that." However, I find myself physically unable to mouth these words. All I could do was rest my head on his chest and listen to the beating of his heart.

特別転送隊資料ファイル 09

Maria Rivera

I turn around, thinking that I heard a baby's cry.

"Meow~"

Tricked again. Just how did a stray cat get in here? Isn't this supposed to be a prison? Thanks to the cat falsely raising my hopes, my breasts begin to ache again. My breasts are inflamed because I haven't been able to give any milk. The prison guard yells at me when I ask to use the toilet. As I wring out milk from my breasts to flush down the toilet, I'm overwhelmed with grief and begin sobbing quietly.

The baby that I gave birth to just a few months before is now no longer with me. She was taken away from me. The prison took her away to some facility. I'll never be able to see her grow up. All this, even though I wasn't trying to escape military service by giving birth to her. True, I did try to run from the authorities, but that was only because I did not want them to abort my baby.

Upon leaving the toilet, I pass by a loitering long-term convict. "I hear if you fight on the front-lines, you might be able to get your kid back..."

Again, I hear a cat meowing somewhere. This time, I did not turn around to look.

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